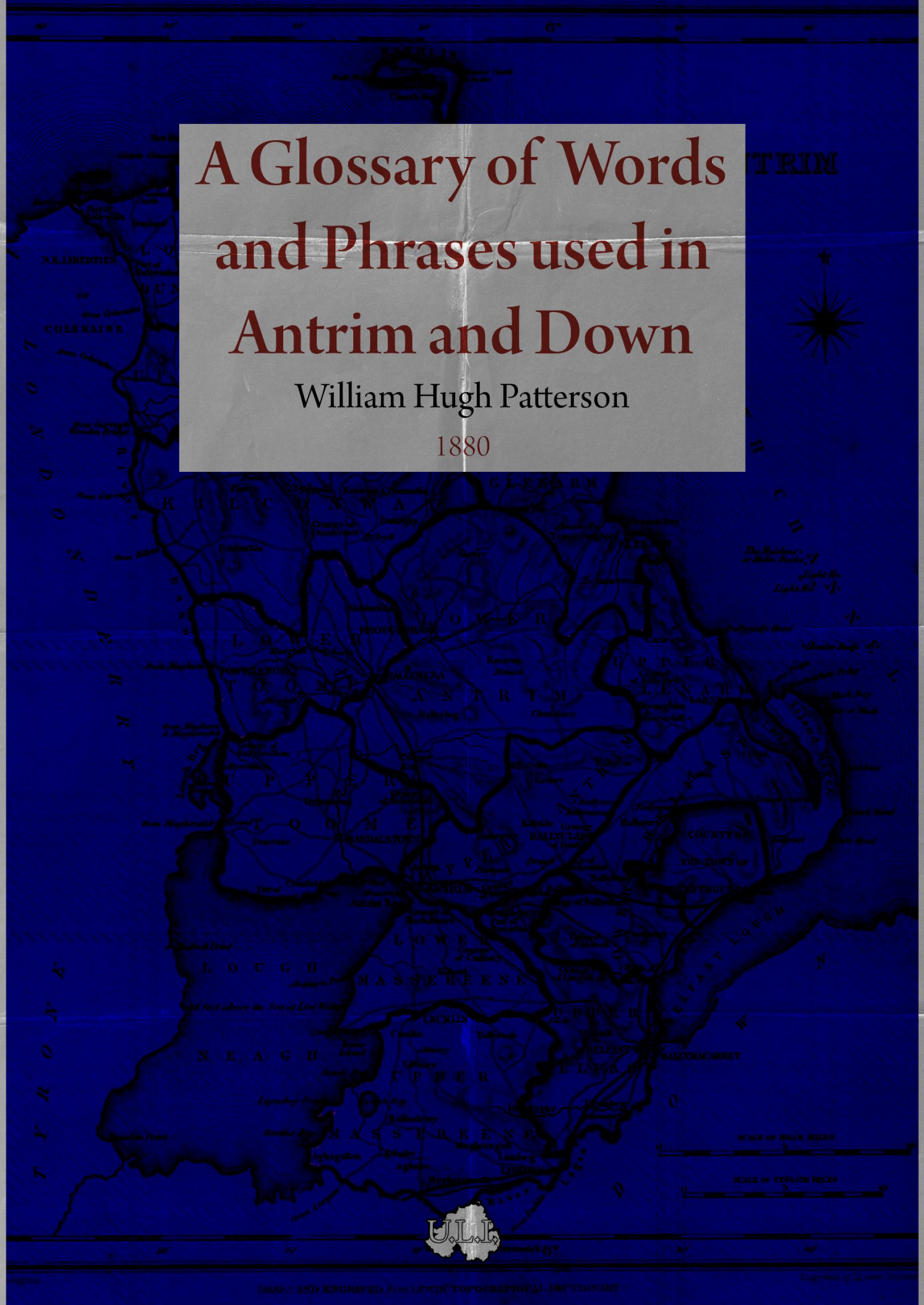


A Glossary of Words and Phrases used in Antrim and Down

William Hugh Patterson

1880



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Source

Hugh, W. (1880) *Glossary of Words in the Counties of Antrim and Down*,
Ulsterscotsacademy.com. Edited by Ulster-Scots Academy. Ulster-Scots Academy.
Available at: <https://www.ulsterscotsacademy.com/texts/historical-abstracts/1800-1899/patternsons-glossary/> (Accessed: November 2025).

Original Introduction

In the earlier part of the reign of Elizabeth the Irish language was generally spoken by the people in the North-east of Ireland, the exceptions being in some few centres of English occupation, such as Carrickfergus, Belfast, the shores of Strangford Lough, the neighbourhood of Ardglass, and that of Carlingford.

During Elizabeth's reign considerable numbers of English, and of Lowland Scots, came over and settled in the thinly-populated territories of Antrim and Down; their leaders got grants of lands, and the native inhabitants moved away to less accessible districts of the country, or, to some extent, took service with the new-comers. This influx of English and Scotch settlers marks the introduction of English as a generally-spoken language into Antrim and Down. In the succeeding reign the number of English-speaking settlers was largely augmented, for as the forests were cut down the space available for colonization increased, and after the flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell in 1607, many Scotch settlers came into the district, along with Welsh and English. Still later, after the quelling of the rebellion of 1641, by the Parliamentary armies the number of English-speaking settlers was further increased, and for a considerable time afterwards a slow and gradual immigration went on, chiefly of Scots.

Richard Dobbs, Esq., writes thus in May, 1683, while speaking of the traffic between Scotland and the North of Ireland: — “Only people (with all their goods upon their backs) land here from Scotland. Take in from Glenarn [sic] to Donaghadee and the ports between: [*i.e.* Belfast Lough, and a short distance to the north and south of it] there are more than 1000 of this sort that land every summer without returning.” Centuries before this time, large numbers of Scots had passed over into the county of Antrim, but they were Gaelic-speaking Highlanders; they spread themselves over the district known as the ‘Glens of Antrim,’ and kept up for a long time a close connection with their mother country, passing to and fro continually, and causing great trouble to the English rulers in Ireland. Their descendants, having amalgamated with the native Irish, still occupy the Glens, and Gaelic is spoken among them to this day.

The spread of these turbulent Scots in Ulster is thus noticed by Mr. Hill in his *Macdonnells of Antrim*: — “In the year 1533 the council in Dublin forwarded this gloomy

announcement on the subject of the council in London. ‘The Scottes also inhabithe now buysselly a greate parte of Ulster which is the kingis inheritance; and it is greatly to be feared, oonless that in short tyme they be dryven from the same, that they bringinge in more nombre daily, woll by lyttle and lyttle soe far encroche in accquyring and wynting the possessions there, with the aide of the kingis disobeytant Irishe rebelles, who doo nowe ayde them therein, after sicke manner, that at lengthe they will put and expel the king from his hole seignory there.’”

Canon Hume, in an interesting paper on the Irish Dialects of the English Language, reprinted from the Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, thus speaks of the tide of immigration from Great Britain into the north of Ireland: — “About the year 1607, when much of Ulster required to be planted or resettled, immigration, instead of being, as previously, a mere rivulet — or largely dependent on the condition of the regiments serving in the country — became a flood, and strangers settled not by tens, but by thousands. A large number of these were from the apple districts of Warwickshire, Worcester, and Gloucester; several were from Chester, through which the adventurers passed to take shipping at the mouth of the Dee; a few were from the adjoining county of Lancaster; and some from London. The great English settlement commenced on the two sides of Belfast Lough. It included the town of Belfast, which was at first English, but, like Londonderry, became Scotticised, owing to the preponderance of North Britons in the rural districts on both sides. Pressing on by Lisburn and to the east bank of Lough Neagh, the English settlers cover eleven parishes in Antrim alone, all of which preserve to this hour their English characteristics; and crossing still further, over Down to Armagh, they stopped only at the base of the Pomeroy mountains in Tyrone. Thus, from the tides of the channel to beyond the centre of Ulster, there was an unbroken line of English settlers, as distinct from Scotch; and the district which they inhabit is still that of the apple, the elm, and the sycamore — of large farms and two-storied slated houses. The Scotch settlers entered at the two points which lie opposite to their own country — namely, at the Giant’s Causeway, which is opposed to the Mull of Cantyre on one side, and at Donaghadee which is opposed to the Mull of Galloway on the other. Two centuries and a half ago Ireland was to them what Canada, Australia, and the United States have been to the redundant population of our own times.” In another paper Canon Hume particularizes still further the lines of Scottish immigration: — “The Scotch entered Down by Bangor and Donaghadee, and pushed inland by Comber, Saintfield, and Ballynahinch, to Dromara and Dromore; while in Antrim they proceeded by Islandmagee,

Ballyclare, Antrim, and Ballymena, surrounding the highlands and reaching the sea again by Bushmills and the Causeway. In 1633 and 1634 the emigrants from Scotland by way of Ayrshire, walked in companies of a hundred or more from Aberdeen or Inverness-shires, and were about 500 per annum, mostly males, and many of them discontented farm-servants.” Canon Hume thus describes how the native inhabitants of the forfeited lands met this tide of immigration: — “The Irish or natives, broken and conquered, reduced also in number by war, famine, and disease, occupied when possible strong positions. They still regarded as specially their own the land which was least accessible, or least desirable, and fled to the hills and morasses. It is curious to see how popular language has embodied these facts in such expressions as ‘Mountainy people,’ ‘Back of the hill folk,’ ‘Bog-trotters,’ etc. There they still remain, though many of the humbler classes have found permanent homes in the towns.” In Down, the extensive Baronies of Mourne and Lecale, and the Lordship of Newry, changed the lords of the soil, but retained the population. As bearing upon the dialect of the district it is interesting to enquire as to the numbers and the proportions in which these various nationalities of English, Scotch, and Irish now occupy the district.

A valuable series of articles from the pen of the Rev. Canon Hume on these subjects was published in the *Ulster Journal of Archæology*. The following papers were some of those which appeared:—

Origin and Characteristics of the People of Down and Antrim, in nine chapters, *Ulster Journal*, i. 9; i. 120; i. 246. Topographical Map, Physical Map, and Speed’s Map of 1610. Ethnology of the Two Counties, iv. 154. Ethnological Map. The Elements of Population, Illustrated by the Statistics of Religious Belief, in six chapters, vii. 116. Ecclesiastical Map, constructed from the Creed Census of 1834. Surnames in the County of Antrim, in five sections, v. 323. Unique Coloured Map. Surnames in the County of Down, in five sections, vi. 77. Unique Coloured Map. The Irish Dialect of the English Language, vi. 47. A Dialogue in the Ulster Dialect, vi. 40.

The county electoral rolls afford a convenient way of ascertaining the leading names, and hence, pretty closely, the nationalities of the inhabitants. With this view the roll of the Co. of Antrim has been examined by the Rev. Edmund McClure, A.M., and the results made known in a paper read before the Belfast Naturalists’ Field Club in January, 1874. The title of

the paper is, 'The Surnames of the Inhabitants of the Co. of Antrim and their Indications.' The following extract sums up one branch of the subject:—

“In the 1357 names of the Roll I find that 565 are Lowland Scotch, 18 of which are Norman names. There are 234 Highland names. There are in all 181 Irish names, and 16 Anglo-Norman of the time of the Conquest. The English names amount to 251, the Welsh to seven, the Huguenots to six. The remaining names, about 100, are those of a few foreigners, and those which I have left as undetermined. This shows simply the relative position of the names on the roll. The number of Lowland Scotch I find represented by the 565 names amounts to 5682, or about 55.80 per cent. of the entire Roll. Of Scotch of foreign origin there is a per-centage of 1.48.

“The Scottish Celts represented by the 234 names exhibit a proportion of 23.68 per cent. of the Roll. The number of Irish names (181) represents only 824 of a native population, or about 8.09 per cent. Here the results, from an examination of the Electoral Roll, seem to vary from those obtained from other sources. To represent the proportion of the native Irish in the county we should have to add 3 per cent., or even a little more, to this per-centage of 8.09. For I find that the native population, as a rule, are much poorer than their neighbours, so that a far less proportion of them have the qualifications of county voters, that is, holdings valued at £12 per annum.

“By private enquiry in the districts in which the native population is large I find this to be the case, and that many of their names do not figure on the Roll at all. I think, however, that the per-centage over the entire county is not over 12 per cent. The English represented by the 251 names amount to 783. Those of long settlement in the county — *i.e.* who came centuries before the Plantation — number 40 in addition. The Welsh names represent 28. All these taken together make 851, or show a per-centage of 8.35 of the entire Roll. Foreigners, Huguenots, and Germans are represented by 21 people on the list. The undetermined names represent 243 on the list, or about 2.38 per cent. of the Roll. The native population is descended in the main from well-known Irish tribes who dwelt in this part of the country before the wars of Essex (Queen Elizabeth's time).”

The words and phrases in the accompanying Glossary will be found in the main to be of Scottish origin, and many of them have already found a place in Jamieson's dictionary,

and in the various glossaries already printed by the English Dialect Society. The forms of the words may vary somewhat, because they naturally underwent changes consequent upon the lapse of time since their introduction to an alien soil. In many cases it was a difficulty how to spell the words, because I only had them as sounded, and the difficulty was increased when I frequently found that the same word was pronounced in two or more ways by different persons, either natives of different districts, or persons whose mode of speaking had been influenced by different surroundings or by more or less of education. In some districts in the east of the two counties the people still talk a Scotch dialect, but with a modified Scotch accent; the old people talk more ‘broadly’ than the young. Owing to the spread of well-managed schools the Scotch accent and the dialect words are passing away. Some of the words in the accompanying Glossary are now obsolete, and doubtless in a few years a much greater number will have become so. I have not attempted to collect the proverbs that are in use here, but so far as I know they are much the same as those used in other parts of these countries. There are in use many phrases of comparison, of which the following are examples:—

‘As big as I don’t know what,’ a vague comparison.

‘As black as Toal’s cloak.’

‘As black as Toby.’

‘As blunt as a beetle’ (*i.e.* a wooden pounder)

‘As broad as a griddle.’

‘As busy as a nailor.’

‘As clean as a new pin.’

‘As close as a wilk’ (*i.e.* a periwinkle): applied to a very reticent person.

‘As coarse as bean-straw.’

‘As coarse as praity-oaten.’

‘As common as dish water,’ very common: applied to a person of very low extraction.

‘As common as potatoes.’

‘As could as charity.’

‘As crooked as a ram’s horn.’

‘As crooked as the hind leg of a dog.’

‘As cross as two sticks.’

‘As dry as a bone.’

‘As easy as kiss.’

‘As frush as a bennel’ (the withered stalk of fennel).
 ‘As frush (brittle) as a pipe stapple’ (stem).
 ‘As grave as a mustard pot.’
 ‘As great (intimate) as inkle weavers.’
 ‘As hungry as a grew’ (greyhound).
 ‘As ill to herd as a stockin’ full o’ fleas,’ very difficult to mind.
 ‘As many times as I’ve fingers and toes,’ a comparison for having done something often.
 ‘As mean as get out.’
 ‘As plain as a pike-staff,’ quite evident.
 ‘As sick as a dog,’ sick in the stomach.
 ‘As stiff as a proker’ (poker), very stiff: applied to a person.
 ‘As sure as a gun.’
 ‘As sure as the hearth money.’
 ‘As tall as a May-pole.’
 ‘As thick as bog butter.’ Wooden vessels filled with butter, the manufacture of long ago, are occasionally dug out of the peat-bogs; the butter has been converted into a hard, waxy substance.
 ‘As thick as three in a bed,’ much crowded.
 ‘As thin as a lat’ (lath).
 ‘As true as truth has been this long time,’ of doubtful truth.
 ‘As yellow as a duck’s foot’ (applied to the complexion).

As well as the publications by Canon Hume already enumerated, I should mention one which gives many most characteristic examples of the Belfast dialect. It is an almanac for the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, published anonymously, but written entirely by the learned Canon, whose authority I have for making this statement. The full title of the work is *Poor Rabbin’s Ollminick for the toun o’ Bilfawst, containing varrious different things ’at ivvery body ought t’ be acquentit with, wrote down, prentet, an’ put out, jist the way the people spakes, by Billy McCart of the County Down side that uset to be: but now of the Entherim road, toarst the Cave hill*. Canon Hume has also collected the materials for a most comprehensive dictionary or glossary of Hibernicisms. It would be most desirable that this should be published. For a description of the scope and aim of this work I would refer to his pamphlet, *Remarks on the Irish Dialect of the English Language*. Liverpool: 1878.

In connection with our local dialect, I should also refer to a little work by Mr. David Patterson, *The Provincialisms of Belfast pointed out and corrected*. Belfast: 1860. In this work the writer calls attention to the various classes of words that are wrongly pronounced, and gives long lists of these words. He also gives a list of “words not to be met with in our ordinary English dictionaries.” In my Glossary I have got some words from Mr. D. Patterson’s lists, some from the *Ollminick*, and a few, principally obsolete, from local histories, such as Harris’s *History of Down* (1744), Dubourdieu’s *Survey of Down* (1802), and McSkimin’s *History of Carrickfergus* (1823). But most of the words and phrases have been collected orally either by myself or by friends in different country districts, who have kindly sent me in lists, and whom I would now thank for the help they have given.

Although not necessarily a part of this work, I have thought it well to add a word on the subject of the Irish language as still spoken in Antrim and Down. It has lately been said that there is no county in Ireland in which some Irish is not still spoken, not revived Irish, but in continuity from the ancient inhabitants of the country. In 1802 the Rev. John Dubourdieu, in his *Survey of Down*, thus writes:

“The English language is so general that every person speaks it; but, notwithstanding, the Irish language is much used in the mountainous parts, which in this, as in most other countries, seem to have been the retreat of the ancient inhabitants.”

I have made enquiry this year (1880), and a correspondent sends me the following note from the mountainous district in the south of Down: — “There are a good many Irish-speaking people in the neighbourhood of Hilltown, but I think nearly all of them can speak English; when, however, they frequent fairs in the upper parts of the Co. Armagh, for instance at Newtownhamilton or Crossmaglen, they meet numbers of people who speak English very imperfectly, and with these people the Down men converse altogether in Irish.” In the Co. of Antrim the district known as ‘the Glens,’ in the N.E. of the county, with the adjacent-lying island of Rathlin, has remained to some extent an Irish or Gaelic-speaking district. In the course of some years, about 1850, Mr. Robert MacAdam, the accomplished editor of *The Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, made a collection chiefly in Antrim of 500 Gaelic proverbs, which were printed, with English translations, in his *Journal*. These were picked up from the peasantry among their homes and at markets. A short note from the pen of

Mr. MacAdam in Dr. J. A. H. Murray's work on *The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland* (London: 1873), is so much to the point that I must quote it:

“The people are evidently the same as those of Argyll, as indicated by their names, and for centuries a constant intercourse has been kept up between them. Even yet the Glensmen of Antrim go regularly to the Highland fairs, and communicate, without the slightest difficulty, with the Highlanders. Having myself conversed with both Glensmen and Arran men I can testify to the absolute identity of their speech.” Dr. Murray adds: “But there is not the slightest reason to deduce the Glensmen from Scotland; they are a relic of the ancient continuity of the population of Ulster and Western Scotland.”

I wrote this year to a friend whose home is in the Glens for information as to the present use of Gaelic there. He writes: — “I have ascertained from one of our medical men, who is long resident here, that in one of the principal glens there are about sixty persons who speak Irish, and who prefer its use to that of English, among themselves, but who all know and speak English. Some of the children also understand Irish, but will not speak it, or let you know that they understand you if you speak to them in it.”

W. H. Patterson

Strandtown, Belfast,
June, 1880.

Ulster Loyalist Institute

The Ulster Loyalist Institute (U.L.I.) is a digital project which aims to archive materials relating to Ulster, particularly the loyalist culture and beliefs, Ulster-Scots culture and Cruthin history which has come from Ulster.

We operate a Substack, Telegram, Archive.org, Mega, Google Drive, Instagram and Twitter (formerly X).

These can be found on our link index guns.lol/Ulster

This e-book was created independently of the Ulster-Scots Academy and any other body by the Ulster Loyalist Institute in the aim of aiding in the preservation of Ulster-Scots language and culture

Whae wull sinther huz frae Ulstèr?

A

A, *pro.* I. 'A will.' 'A'm sayin'.

Aan, *sb.* the hair or beard in barley.

Aas, *sb.* ashes.

A-back. 'Light-*a-back*.' 'Heavy-*a-back*.' When a cart is loaded, the load can be arranged so as to press very lightly on the horse, this is having it 'light-*a-back*;' when the chief weight is towards the front of the cart, and therefore presses on the horse, the cart is 'heavy-*a-back*.'

Abin, *or* Aboon, *adv.* above.

Able. 'Can you spell *able*?' = are you sure you can do what you are bragging about?

Abreard, *adj.* the condition of a field when the crop appears.

Acquant, *or* Acquent, *v.* acquainted. 'I'm well *acquaint* with all his people.'

Afeard, *adv.* afraid.

Affront. 'He didn't *affront* her,' *i.e.* it was not a shabby present he made her.

Afleet, *adj.* afloat.

Afore, *prep.* before.

Again, Agin, *adv.* against.

Agee, *adj.* crooked; to one side.

Ahin, *prep.* behind.

Aiblins, *adv.* perhaps.

Ailsa-cock, *sb.* the puffin.

Ain, *adj.* own.

Airle, Erle, *v.* to give earnest money.

Airles, *or* Arles, *sb.* earnest money given on engaging a servant.

Airn, *sb.* iron.

Airns, *or* Plough Airns, *sb.* the coulter, sock, &c. of a plough.

Aiwal. When an animal falls on its back, and cannot recover itself, it is said to have fallen 'aiwal.'

Aizins, *sb.* the eaves of the thatch of a house or stack. Same as [Easins](#).

Aizle-tree, *sb.* an axle tree.

Allan-hawk, *sb.* the great northern diver, and the red-throated diver. The skua was also so called in Mourne, co. of Down (*Harris*, 1744). See [Holland-hawk](#).

All gab and guts like a young crow, a comparison.

All my born days, all my life. 'A niver seen sich a sight in all *ma born days*.'

All my lone, A' my lane, *or* All his lone, *v.* alone.

Allow, to advise. 'Doctor! A wouldn't *allow* you to be takin' off that blister yet,' means 'I wouldn't advise it.'

Allowance, *sb.* permission. 'There's no *allowance* for people in here.'

All sorts, (1) a great scolding. 'She gave me *all sorts* for not doin' it.' (2) very much. 'She was cryin' *all sorts*.' 'It was raining *all sorts*.'

All the one, the only one. 'Is this *all the one* you have.'

All there, *adj.* wise; sane. 'Not *all there*' = not quite wise.

All together like Brown's cows, *or* Like Brown's cows all in a lump, a comparison.

All to one side like the handle of a jug, saying.

Alowe, *v.* lit; kindled; on fire.

Amang hans. 'He'll daet *amang hans*,' *i.e.* he will get it done somehow, by dividing the labour, and finding spare time for it.

Among ye be it, blind harpers, *i.e.* settle it among yourselves; said to persons quarrelling.

Amos 'A blirton *amos*,' a big soft fellow who weeps for a slight cause.

Angle-berries, *sb.* large hanging warts on a horse, sometimes about its mouth.

Anklet, *sb.* the ankle.

Auncient, Encient, *adj.* cunning; knowing. 'A sea gull's a very *auncient* bird.'

Annundher, *adv.* underneath. Same as [Innundher](#).

Antic, *adj.* funny; droll. 'He's very *antic*.' Anticest = most funny.

Anything, used as a comparison. 'He was running away as hard as *anything*.' 'I'm as mad as *anything* with him.'

Apern, *sb.* an apron.

Appear, *v.* to haunt places after death.

Argay, to argue. 'You would *argay* the black crow white,' saying.

Arm. To *arm* a person, is to lead or support a person along by the arms.

Arr, *sb.* a scar, such a pock-mark, or the scar left by a wound.

Arran, Ern, *sb.* an errand.

Arred, *adj.* scarred; pock-marked.

Arris, *sb.* the sharp edge of a freshly-planed piece of wood, or of cement, or stone work.

Arr-nut, *sb.* the pig nut, *Bunium flexuosum*.

Art, Airt, *sb.* point of the compass. 'What *art* is the win in the day?' A particular part of the country, as — 'It's a bare *art* o' the country.'

As, than. 'I'd rather sell *as* buy.'

Ass. 'He would steal the cross off an *ass*:' said of a very mean and greedy fellow.

At himself. 'He's no *at himsel*,' *i.e.* he's not well.

Athout, without.

Attercap, *sb.* a cross-grained, ill-natured person. 'Ya cross *attercap*, ya.'

Atween, *prep.* between.

Auld-farrand, or Aul-farran, *adj.* knowing; cunning.

Aumlach, *sb.* a small quantity.

Ava, at all. 'A dinna ken *ava*.' 'A'll hae nane o' that *ava*.'

Avis, Aves, *adv.* perhaps; may be; but. 'Avis a'll gang there on the Sabbath.'

Avout, unless; without. 'I could not tell *avout* I saw it.'

Away and divart the hunger aff ye: said to children who are troubling and crying for a meal before it is ready.

Away and throw moul' on yourself: said in scolding matches, probably means 'go and bury yourself.'

Away in the mind, *adj.* mad.

Away to the hills, gone mad.

Ax, *v.* to ask.

Ay? Eh? what? what do you say?

Ayont, *prep.* beyond.

B

Back. 'I'm never off his *back*,' *i.e.* I'm always watching and correcting him.

Back door work, *sb.* underhand work.

Back spang, *sb.* a trick; something underhand. 'He's a decent man, there's no *back spangs* about him.'

Back-stone, *sb.* a stone not less than two feet high, a foot and a half broad, and one foot thick, placed at the back of a turf fire, between the fire and the gable.

Back talk, saucy replies from a child or an inferior.

Bacon. 'Could you eat *bacon* that fat?' is the remark that accompanies the gesture known as 'taking a sight.' 'He made *bacon* at me,' *i.e.* he took a sight at me.

Bad, *adj.* sick. 'He has been *bad* this month and more.'

Bad cess to you, bad luck to you.

Bad conscience, *sb.* It is said of people who go out to walk in the rain that they have a 'bad conscience,' and therefore cannot abide at home.

Bad man, the, *sb.* the devil.

Bad place, the, *sb.* hell.

Bad scan, *sb.* bad luck. '*Bad scan* to you.'

Baghel, Boghel, *sb.* a clumsy performer.

Bailer, *sb.* a vessel used for 'bailing out' a boat.

Bairn, *sb.* a child.

Baiverage, beverage. When a young woman appears wearing something new for the first time, she gives her acquaintances the '*baiverage* of it,' this is a kiss.

Bake, *v.* to knead bread, as well as to bake it in an oven.

Ball, *sb.* a large and compact shoal of herrings is called by fishermen '*a ball*.'

Balling, *v.* Sea birds pouncing on a *ball* of fry are said to be *balling*.

Balloar, Billour, or Billyor, *v.* to holloa; to shout out.

Bankrope, *sb.* a bankrupt.

Bannock, Bonnock, *sb.* a cake baked on a griddle.

Banter, *v.* to taunt a person to fight. 'He *bantered* me to fight him.'

Banty, *sb.* a bantam fowl.

Banyan, *sb.* a flannel jacket worn by Carlingford oystermen and fishermen.

Bap, *sb.* a lozenge-shaped bun, whitened with flour.

Bar-drake, Bar-duck, *sb.* the red-breasted merganser.

Bardugh, *sb.* a donkey's pannier with falling bottom.

Bare pelt, *sb.* the bare skin. 'He ran out on the street in his *bare pelt*.'

Barge, (1) *sb.* some kind of bird (Harris, *Hist. co. Down*, 1744). (2) *sb.* a scolding woman. (3) *v.* to scold in a loud abusive way.

Barked, *v.* encrusted. 'Your skin is *barked* with dirt.'

Barley-buggle, *sb.* a scarecrow.

Barley-play, *sb.* a call for truce in boy's [sic] games.

Barn-brack, *sb.* a large sweetened bun containing currants, in season at all times, but especially so at Hallow-eve, when it contains a ring; the person who gets the ring will of course be first married (Irish *breac*, speckled).

Barney bridge, *sb.* a children's game. In playing it the following rhyming dialogue is used:—

'How many miles to *Barney bridge*?'

'Three score and ten.'

'Will I be there by candle light?'

'Yes, if your legs be long.'

'A curtsy to you.'

'Another to you.'

'If you please will you let the king's horses go through?'

'Yes, but take care of your hindmost man.'

Barroughed, Borroughed, *adj.* a cow with her hind legs tied to keep her still while being milked is *barroughed*.

Barrow-coat, *sb.* a long flannel petticoat, open in front, worn by infants.

Baste, *sb.* any animal except a human being. A zealous individual asked a servant-girl, 'Are you a Christian?' She replied, 'Do you think I'm a *baste*?'

See *s.v.* [Christen](#).

Baste the bear, *sb.* a boy's game.

Basty, *adj.* tough and hard, applied to stiff heavy clay or earth.

Bat, (1) *sb.* a blow. 'He geed me a *bat* on the heed.' (2) *sb.* a moth. A *bat* is called 'a leather-winged *bat*.'

Bats and bands, a description of rude hinges, consisting of a hook which is driven into the door-frame, and a strap with an eye which is nailed to the door, so that the door can at any time be lifted off its hinges.

Battery, *sb.* a sloping sea wall.

Battle, bottle, *sb.* a small bundle of hay or straw.

Bavin, *sb.* a sea fish, the ballan wrasse, family *Labrus*. Fishermen esteem it of very little account, and generally use it to bait their lobster-pots with. It is also called ‘Morrian,’ ‘Murren-roe,’ and ‘Gregah.’

Bay, *sb.* one of the divisions or apartments in a cottage.

Beal, *v.* to suppurate.

Bealdin, Bealin, *sb.* matter from a sore.

Bealin, *sb.* a suppurating sore.

Beat all, *v.* to surpass all. ‘Well, now, that *beat all* that ever I heard.’

“The day *beat all* for beauty.” — W. Carleton.

Beauty sleep, *sb.* the sleep had before twelve o’clock.

Becker-dog, *sb.* the grampus.

Becomes, *v.* ‘She *becomes* her bonnet,’ means the bonnet becomes her. ‘Shure the creathur *becomes* his new shuit.’

Beddy, *adj.* interfering; meddling. ‘You’re very *beddy*,’ saucy at one’s food, also greedy, covetous.

Bedrill, *sb.* a bed-ridden person; same as [Betharel](#).

Beece, *sb.* cattle; beasts.

Beeslings, *sb.* beestings — the milk got from a cow at the three first milkings after she has calved.

Beet, *sb.* a small sheaf, or bunch of flax.

Beets, *sb. pl.* the medullary rays in wood.

Beetle, *sb.* a round wooden mallet or pounder for kitchen use; a wooden block as used in a ‘beetling mill.’

Beetling-mill, *sb.* a mill fitted with large wooden ‘beetles,’ raised perpendicularly by machinery and falling with their own weight, for finishing linen.

Beggar’s stab, *sb.* a coarse sewing-needle.

Begoud, Beggod, *v.* begun.

Begunked, *adj.* disappointed. Same as [Gunked](#).

Behang, an exclamation. ‘O *behang t’ ye* for a fool.’

Behind God speed, an out-of-the-way place; quite out of the world. Same as At the back of God speed.

Behopes, *sb.* hope; expectation. ‘I saw him to-day, and he has no *behopes* of bein’ any better.’ ‘I had great *behopes* the day would be fine.’

Bein’, *sb.* (being), any wretched or unfortunate person.

Belly-band, *sb.* the girth, in cart or car harness; the piece of cord attached to the front of a boy’s kite to which the string is fastened.

Bendard, *sb.* the bent stick or bow in the frame of a boy's kite; the upright stick is called the 'standard'.

Ben-weed, Bend-weed, *sb.* the rag-weed, *Senecio Jacobæa*.

Berries, *sb. pl.* gooseberries.

Betherel, *sb.* a bed-ridden person; a helpless cripple.

Be to be, must be. 'There *be to* *be* another man got to help.'

Be to do, must do. 'He *be to do* it,' *i.e.* he must do it.

Better, (1) *adv.* more. 'He gave me *better* nor a dozen.' (2) *adj.* well. 'He's not better, but he's not so bad as he was yesterday.' The moment a child is born, the mother is said to be *better*.

Better again, still better.

Beyond the beyonds, *adj.* something very wonderful or unexpected.

Beyont the beyons, some very out of the way place.

Bide, *v.* to wait.

Bid the time o' day, *v.* to say good-morning, or any similar salutation.

Big, *v.* to build. 'Come and see Billy *biggin*.'

Biggin, *sb.* a building.

Bike (a bee's *bike*), *sb.* a wild bee's nest.

Bill, *sb.* a bull.

Biller, *sb.* water-cress (in Irish *biorar* [birrer]).

Bindherer, Binntherer, *sb.* anything very large or good of its kind.

Bing, *sb.* a heap; a heap of potatoes in a field covered with earth; a heap of grain in a barn.

Binged up, *v.* heaped up.

Binner, *v.* to go very quickly.

Birl, *v.* to twirl round; to go rapidly, as a vehicle; to run fast.

Birse, *sb.* bristles.

Birsy, *adv.* bristly.

Birthy, *adj.* numerous, or thick in the ground, applied to potatoes; prolific, or productive. 'Them beans is very *birthy*.'

Biscake, *sb.* a biscuit.

Biscuit, *sb.* the root of *Potentilla tormentilla*, called also 'tormenting root'.

Bisna, *v.* is not. 'If it *bisna* the right thing, we canny work wi' it.'

Bissent, is not. 'I can carry it, if it *bissent* too weighty.'

Bit, (1) *sb.* The *bit* of a key is the part that is cut to pass the wards of the lock. (2) *sb.* to 'come to the *bit*,' is to come to the point; to arrive at the last stage of a bargain.

Biting Billy, *sb.* a very hot description of sugar-stick.

Bits of things, *sb. pl.* household furniture.

Biz, bees, *v.* is or are. ‘If you *biz* goin’ I’ll go too.’ ‘When that work *bees* finished ye may go.’

Bizz, *v.* to buzz.

“And sweetly you *bizzed* wee happy bee.” — Flecher.

Blab, *sb.* (1) a raised blister; (2) a tell-tale; (3) a bee’s *blab*, the little bag of honey within the body of a bee.

Black-a-vized, *adj.* dark-complexioned.

Black-back, *sb.* a fish, the flounder or fluke, *Platessa flesus*.

Black-head, *sb.* the reed bunting.

Black lumps, *sb. pl.* a favourite sweetmeat, made up in balls, and flavoured with cloves.

Black out, *adj.* ‘The fire’s *black out*,’ *i.e.* quite out.

Black scart, *sb.* a cormorant.

Blad, (1) *sb.* a useless thing. (2) *sb.* a slap or blow. (3) *v.* to slap.

(4) *v.* to blow or flap about in the wind, as clothes do when drying on a line. ‘The wind would *blad* the young trees about.’ Bladding = flapping about.

Blade, *sb.* Strawberries, raspberries, and currants, are sold by the *blade*; *i.e.* a cabbage-leaf into which a pint or quart, as the case may be, of the fruit, has been put.

Blade mangles, to, *v.* to take the outside leaves off growing *mangolds*.

Blae, *adj.* livid; blueish. ‘*Blae* with cold.’

Blae-berry, *sb.* the whortleberry, *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Same as [Frughan](#).

Bla-flum, Bla-fum, *sb.* nonsense; something said to mislead.

Blanket. ‘It’s as braid as it’s lang, like Paddy’s blanket’ = it’s no matter which of two ways a thing is done.

Blanter, *sb.* a particular kind of oats, long in the pickle, and late in ripening.

Blashy, *adj.* splashy.

Blast o’ the pipe, *sb.* a smoke.

Blate, *adj.* bashful.

Blatther, *sb.* ‘He fell a *blatther* on the groun,’ *i.e.* with great force.

Blaud, (1) *sb.* a slap or blow. (2) *v.* to slap.

Bleart, *adj.* bleared.

Bleary-een, *sb. pl.* eyes affected by a thick fluid; inflamed eyes.

Bleerie-tea, *sb.* very weak tea.

Blessed be the Maker! an exclamation, made after saying that any one is particularly ugly.

Blessing, (1) 'You missed as you missed your mammy's *blessin*:' said derisively to some one who is disappointed at having missed something. (2) 'The Lord's blessing be about you,' a common form in which a beggar acknowledges alms.

Blether, Blather, (1) *sb.* a talking, empty person. (2) *v.* to talk foolishly; to talk indistinctly.

Blethers, *sb.* nonsense; foolish talk.

Blind, *v.* to 'blind a road' = to spread small stones or cinders so as to cover up the large stones, with which a new road has been 'pitched,' and to fill the interstices.

Blind man's stan, *sb.* a boy's game, played with the eggs of small birds. The eggs are placed on the ground, and the player, who is blindfolded, takes a certain number of steps in the direction of the eggs; he then slaps the ground with a stick thrice, in the hope of breaking the eggs; then the next player, and so on.

Blinked, *adj.* Cow's milk is said to be *blinked* when it does not produce butter, in consequence of some supposed charm having been worked — a counter charm is required to bring it right.

Blister, *sb.* an annoying person.

Blockan, *sb.* the coal fish, *Merlangus carbonarius*. The fry are called gilpins, small ones pickies; the mid-sized ones blockans and glashans, and when large, grey lord and stanlock.

Blood, (1) *v.* 'To get *blood* from a turnip,' to achieve something very difficult in the way of getting. (2) *v.* to bleed. 'Your nose is *bloodin*.'

Blood-sucker, *sb.* a stinging jelly-fish, or *Medusa*.

Blooming Sally, *sb.* the hairy willow herb, *Epilobium hirsutum*.

Blooster, *v.* to bluster.

Blootther, *sb.* a severe blow; a clumsy blundering rustic.

Bloss, *sb.* contraction for blossom; a term of endearment.

Blue-bonnet, *sb.* the blue titmouse. The bird that is here called 'the cock blue bonnet,' is really the great titmouse.

Blue-bow, Blew-bowed, *sb.* said of flax when it blossoms.

Blue-month. 'It happens longer or shorter, from the time that the owl pratis (potatoes) goes out, an' the new ones is not come in.' — Ollminick.

Bluit, *sb.* a fish; some description of skate or thorn-back.

Blurtin' thing, *sb.* a crying child.

Boag, *sb.* a bog.

Boagie, *sb.* a strong low truck with four wheels.

Board, (1) *v.* ‘To *board* a person,’ to bring him before a board (of Guardians, for instance) on some charge. ‘What ails you at the man?’ ‘Sure he *boarded* me an’ got me the sack’ (dismissed). (2) *v.* to accost a person.

Bog-bean, *sb.* *Menyanthes trifoliata*. It is used medicinally by the peasantry.

Bogging, *sb.* black bog or peat, used for manure (Mason’s *Parochial Survey*, 1814).

Boggle, *sb.* a mischievous spirit or goblin.

Bog-wood, *sb.* fir-wood dug out of peat bogs.

Bohog, *sb.* a rude shed, under which the priests said mass during times of persecution.

Boil, *sb.* the boil = the boiling point. ‘The pot’s comin’ to the boil.’ ‘It’s just at the *boil*.’

Boiled milk, *sb.* porridge made of oat-meal and milk.

Boiled upon, boiled with. ‘Take some of that herb *boiled upon* sweet milk.’

Boke, *v.* to retch; to incline to vomit.

Bole, *sb.* a small recess in the wall of a room.

Bo-man, *sb.* a bogey. The word is used to frighten children.

Bonaught, *sb.* a thick round cake made of oaten meal, baked on the clear turf coal, and often used on the first making of meal after harvest (Dubourdieu’s *Co. Down*, 1802).

Bone dry, *adj.* perfectly dry.

Bonham, *sb.* a pig of six or eight weeks old.

Bonnock, *sb.* Same as [Bannock](#).

Boo, *sb.* a louse.

Booket, *adj.* sized. ‘It’s *big* booket.’

Bool, *sb.* the bow of a key, or of scissors.

Booled oars, *sb. pl.* a kind of oars used by the Scotch quarter fishermen at Carrickfergus.

“*Booled oars* are those which row, two at one beam; upon each oar is fastened a piece of oak timber, the length of such part of the oar as is worked within the boat; which timber enables them to balance the oar so that they row with greater ease.” — S. McSkimin, *Hist. of Carrickfergus*.

Bools, *sb.* pot-hooks.

Boom out, *v.* When a small boat is running before a light wind the sails are *boomed out* so as to catch as much wind as possible.

Boon, *sb.* a company of reapers.

Boor-tree, Bore-tree, *sb.* the elder-tree, *Sambucus nigra*.

Boose, *sb.* a stall for an ox.

Bose, *adj.* hollow. 'The goose is a bonnie bird if it was not *bose*.'

Bother one's head, *v.* to trouble one's self.

Boun', *v.* bound; determined; prepared; certain. 'He's *boun*' to do it.'

Bowl, *adj.* bold. 'He come on as *bowl* as a lion.'

Box-borra, *sb.* a wheel-barrow with wooden sides.

Boxen, *sb.* a casing of wood such as is round the sides of a farm cart.

Boxty, *or* Boxtty-bread, *sb.* a kind of bread made of grated raw potatoes and flour; it differs from 'potato bread,' or 'potato bread,' of which cold boiled potatoes form the principal part.

Box-wrack, *sb.* a kind of sea-wrack.

Brace, *sb.* a screen, made of stakes interwoven with twigs, and covered inside and outside with prepared clay used to conduct the smoke from a fire on the hearth to an aperture in the roof.

Bracken, *sb.* any large kind of fern.

Brads, Breads, *sb. pl.* the flat boards or scales, usually made of wood, which are attached to a large beam for weighing.

Brae, *sb.* a steep bank; a hill; the brow of a hill.

Braid, *adj.* broad.

Braik, *sb.* a large harrow, sometimes called a 'double harrow,' usually drawn by two horses; the 'single harrow' is much smaller, and is so called, not because it is in one piece, it is really double, but because it is drawn by one horse.

Braird, *sb.* The young blades of corn, flax, &c. that come up in a field are called the *braird*.

Bramble, *sb.* withered branches; rubbish of twigs, &c.

Bramelly, *or* Brambled. A '*bramelly*-legged man' is a man who is either 'knock-kneed' or 'out-kneed,' or has misshapen feet and legs.

Branded, Brannet, *adj.* of a red colour with streaks or bands, applied to cattle.

Brander, *sb.* a broiling iron.

Brash, (1) *sb.* a turn at the operation of churning. 'Gi'e the churn *brash*.'

(2) *sb.* an attack of illness.

Brattle, *sb.* a peal of thunder.

Brave, *adj.* fine; large. 'That's a *brave* day.' 'That's a *brave* chile ye've got.'

Bravely, *adv.* finely. 'He's doin' *bravely*, i.e. he is recovering finely.

Brazier, *sb.* a fish; the pout, *Morrhua lusca*; also the poor or power cod, *M. minuta*; also the common sea bream, *Pagellus centrodontus*.

Bread. 'Bread and butter, and tith, thith, thith.' A child is asked to repeat this, and when he gets to the last syllables the tongue gets between the teeth, and when some one gives him an unexpected blow under the chin of course the tongue gets bitten.

Bread and cheese, *sb.* the young leaf-buds of the hawthorn.

Break, (1) *sb.* a word used by the Ulster Scots for a rout or defeat (obsolete). 'The *Break* of Drummore,' 'The *Break* of Killeleigh.' (2) *v.* to change money. 'Can you *break* that pound note for me?'

Break by kind, *v.* to be different in habits, disposition, &c., from one's parents. "The son of a dhrunk man 'ill le [sic] be inclined to be dhrunk hisself, if he dizint *break by kind*." — Ollminick.

Brecks, *sb. pl.* trousers.

Breest, or Breast, *v.* to spring up and alight with the breast upon some object. 'Cud ye *breest* that wall?'

Breeze, *sb.* fine cinders or coke. "The price of fine *breeze* has been reduced to 3s. per 40 bushels." — *Belfast Paper*, 1875.

Bremmish, *sb.* a dash, or furious rush or blow; the sudden rush made by a ram.

Brent clean, *adj.* quite clean.

Brent new, *adj.* quite new. Same as "bran new."

Brequist, *sb.* breakfast.

Briar bot, *sb.* the fishing frog or sea devil, *Lophius piscatorius*. Same as [Molly Gowan](#), [Kilmaddy](#).

Briar bunting, *sb.* the common bunting.

Bridge, *sb.* a weigh-bridge. A coal carter was found to have been abstracting coals from his own load. 'Ah, ye fool,' said his comrade, 'shure A toul' ye ye had to go over a *bridge*.'

Brills, *sb.* spectacles.

Brissle, *v.* to toast or scorch. 'To *brissle* potatoes.' 'Don't be *brissling* your shins over the fire.'

Broad stone, The, *sb.* a cromlech in the parish of Finvoy, co. of Antrim.

Brochan, *sb.* thin oat-meal porridge. There is a saying, 'Never bless *brochan*,' i.e. that *brochan* is not worth saying grace for, and that such poor food comes as a right.

Brochan roy, *sb.* brochan with leeks boiled in it: used by the very poor.

Brock, (1) *sb.* a badger; a foolish person; a dirty person; one who has a bad smell. (2) *sb.* broken victuals.

Brogue, *sb.* a strong Irish accent. ‘He has a *brogue* you could hang your hat on,’ *i.e.* a very strong brogue.

Brogues. ‘As vulgar as a clash o’ *brogues*,’ *i.e.* a pair of common boots, — very vulgar indeed.

Broken down tradesmen, *sb.* a boys’ game.

Broo, *sb.* *Snow-broo* = snow broth; half-melted snow.

Brooghled, *v.* badly executed.

Brosnach o’ sticks, *sb.* an armful or bundle of branches gathered for fire-wood. Also called Brosna and Brasneugh.

Broth. Broth, like *porridge* and *sowans*, is spoken of in the plural: ‘A few *broth*.’ ‘Will you sup them?’ ‘They’re very salt the day.’

Brough, *sb.* a halo round the moon. ‘A far awa *brough*, is a near han’ storm,’ saying.

Browlt, *adj.* deformed or bowed in the legs: generally applied to a pig, a young dog, or a calf.

Bruckle, *adj.* brittle. ‘That’s *bruckle* ware ye’r carryin’.

Bruckle sayson, *sb.* very unsettled weather.

Brulliment, *sb.* a disturbance; a broil.

Brumf, *adj.* curt or short in manner.

Brust, *v.* to burst.

Bucht oot! *v.* get out!

Buck-house, *sb.* “To be sold or let, a good *buck-house*, about 80 feel long, with a well-watered bleaching green.” — Advt. *Belfast News-letter*, 1738.

Buckie, *sb.* a mollusk, *Buccinum undatum*.

Buckie-berries, *sb.* the scarlet berries of the wild rose.

Buckie-breer, *sb.* a wild rose bush.

Buckled, *v.* bent or twisted: applied to a saw. ‘There, that saw’s all *buckled*; take her to the saw doctor,’ *i.e.* a man who repairs saws.

Buddagh, *sb.* the large lake trout, *Salmo ferox*. The word is said to mean a big, fat fellow; a middle-sized cod-fish.

Buddy, *sb.* an individual.

Budge, *v.* to move. ‘He’s that ill he can’t *budge* his feet or his legs.’

Buffer, *sb.* a boxer. ‘An old *buffer*,’ a tough old fellow.

Bug, *sb.* a caterpillar infesting fruit trees.

Bulk, *v.* to play marbles.

Bulkey, *sb.* a constable.

Bull, *sb.* a large marble.

Bully-rag, *v.* to scold in a bullying and noisy way.

Bully-raggin', *sb.* a great scolding.

Bum-bee, *sb.* a bee.

Bumbee wark, *sb.* nonsense.

Bummer, *sb.* a boy's toy, made with a piece of twine and a small circular disc, usually of tin; it makes a humming noise.

Bumming, *v.* boasting; talking big.

Bun, *sb.* the tail of a hare.

Bun, Bunny, call to a rabbit.

Bunce, (1) *sb.* a consideration in the way of commission given to persons who bring together buyer and seller at a flax market. Perhaps a corruption of *bonus*. (2) *v.* to divide money. 'Bunce the money.'

Bundie, *sb.* what a child sits on.

Bunker, *sb.* a low bank at a road side, a road-side channel.

Bunny, *sb.* a rabbit.

Bunt, *v.* to run away, as a rabbit does.

Burn, *sb.* a small river.

Burn-shin-da-eve, *sb.* a term for a woman who is fond of crouching over the fire.

Burrian, *sb.* a bird; the red-throated diver.

Burroe, *sb.* a kind of sea wrack; the tangle, *Laminaria digitata*. A tall, shapeless person is called in derision

a *burroe*. 'When I was sixteen I grew up as tall as a big *burroe*,' said by a woman from Glenarm, Co. of Antrim.

Burrough duck, *sb.* the shell drake.

Burstled churn. When the sun sets before the grain is all cut, on the last day of reaping on a farm, there is said to be a *burstled churn*.

Bushes, *sb. pl.* masses of sea-weed (tangles), growing on sunken rocks, and exposed at low water.

Busk, *v.* to dress, or deck oneself.

"Gae *busk* yeirsel' an come awa'

An' dinna sit here dringin'."

— Huddleston.

Buskin boot, *sb.* a man's low boot; to tie.

Butcher, *sb.* the parten or shore crab, *Carcinus maenas*.

Butter goes mad twice in the year, a saying. In summer it runs away, and in winter it is too hard, and dear as well.

Buttery fingers, *sb.* a term for a person who lets things slip from his hands.

Buttin' at, *v.* hinting at.

Buy. 'He cud *buyye* at the yin en' o' the toon, an' sell ye at the ithir,' said to a person who is supposed to have a small supply of sense.

By-chap, *sb.* an illegitimate male child.

Bye-word, *sb.* a saying. "It was about this time that Paddy Loughran seen a ghost that had come to frighten him, but he only sayd, 'Ye're late,' an' with that the *bye-word* riz, 'Ye're late, as Paddy Loughran sayd t' the ghost.'" — Ollminick.

By Gommany, a petty oath, or exclamation.

By Goneys, *or* By Golly, an oath.

By Jaiminie King, an oath.

Byre, *sb.* a cow-house.

C

Cackle, *sb.* a concealed laugh.

Cadda, Caddow, *sb.* a quilt or coverlet; a cloak or cover; a small cloth which lies on a horse's back underneath the 'straddle.'

Cadge, *v.* to carry about anything for sale.

Cadger, *sb.* a pedlar; an itinerant dealer in fish.

Caff, *sb.* chaff.

Cahill, *sb.* an eel net.

Caigey, *adj.* in very good spirits; lively; wanton; eager.

Cailey, *sb.* a call or friendly visit.

Caillyea, *sb.* a talk round the fire; a gossip among neighbours.

Caleeriness, *sb.* giddiness; fun; mischief.

Caleery, *adj.* light; vain; full of mischief.

Calf. When a calf is born, it is customary in some places to crush an egg in the hand, and thrust it, shell and all, down the animal's throat. It is also dragged by the heels round the yard for luck. Mason's *Paroch. Survey*, 1819.

Caliagh, *sb.* a potato of more than a year old (probably from its wrinkled appearance, as this is the Irish word for an old woman or hag).

Call, *sb.* occasion or need. 'You had no *call* to do that.' 'What *call* had you to touch them?'

Called on, in demand, as certain classes of goods in shops. 'Flannen's greatly *called on* this weather.'

Calling, *v.* 'He's a *calling*,' *i.e.* he is being called.

Cambered, *adj.* slightly arched; a builder's term for a floor or ceiling which has become bent.

Came on, *v.* became of. 'What *came on* you?'

Candy-man, *sb.* a rag-man. These men generally give a kind of toffee, called ‘candy,’ in exchange for rags, &c.

Canney, *v.* cannot

Canny, *adj.* cautious.

Cant, *v.* to sell by auction.

Can you whistle and chaw meal? addressed to a person who is boasting of his powers of doing difficult things.

Cap-ball, *sb.* a boys’ game.

Capper, *sb.* a turner of wooden bowls.

Carcage, *sb.* a carcase.

Carf, Carp, *sb.* a fish, the sea bream, *Pagellus centrodontus*.

Carf, *sb.* a ditch; a shallow channel cut in peat bogs for conveying water.

Carnaptious, *adj.* quarrelsome; fault-finding.

Carpers, *sb. pl.* “Hundreds of men, women, and children, called *carpers*, are ready to catch the fish [herrings] that break from the net on its drawing on shore.” — Mason’s *Paroch. Survey* (P. Ardclinis, Co. of Antrim), 1819.

Carrion. ‘A *carrion* won’t poison a crow,’ *i.e.* there are some persons who can eat anything, or to whom nothing comes amiss.

Carry, *sb.* a weir or mill-lead.

Carryings on, *sb. pl.* boisterous or improper proceedings.

Carry my lady to London. In this game two children grasp each other by the wrists, forming a seat, on which another child sits, who is thus carried about, while the bearers sing —

‘Give me a pin, to stick in my thumb,

To *carry my lady to London*;

Give me another, to stick in my other,

To carry her a little bit farther.’

Carry of the sky, *sb.* the drift of the clouds.

Carry on, *v.* to behave in a boisterous or giddy manner; to act improperly.

Carvy seed, *sb.* carroway seed.

Case equal. ‘It’s *case equal*,’ *i.e.* it’s just the same; it’s as broad as it’s long.

Cash, *sb.* a pathway; a covered drain made to leave a passage for water in wet ground or bog.

Cast, (1) *adj.* rejected as being faulty. ‘Them’s old *cast* yins; A wouldn’t tak them.’ (2) *v.* to reject on account of some imperfection.

Castaway, *sb.* an old, worn-out horse.

Casting out, *v.* falling out; quarrelling; also the fading out of colours from articles of dress.

Cast ones, *sb. pl.* rejected things.

Cast up, *v.* to reproach; to bring up byegones; to remind one of past errors or offences.

Catch it, *v.* receive punishment. 'If he finds you here you'll *catch it*.'

Cat-fish, *sb.* a cuttle fish, *Sepia officinalis*.

Catteridge, *sb.* a cartridge.

Caup, *sb.* a wooden cup without a handle.

Cawney, *adj.* cautious. Same as [canny](#).

Cawsey, Cassy, *sb.* the paved or hard-beaten place in front of or round about a farmhouse.

Cess, (1) *v.* a house painter's term. When water is put on an oily surface it is said to *cess*, *i.e.* it runs into separate drops. (2) *sb.* 'Bad *cess* to you,' saying; *i.e.* bad luck.

Chainy, *sb.* china.

Champ, *sb.* mashed potatoes.

Chander, *v.* to chide; to scold in a complaining way.

Change, *sb.* not merely 'the change' coming back after a payment, but money itself. 'Sir, I've called for the *change* for them pea-rods.'

Change one's feet, *v.* to put on dry shoes and stockings.

Chapman gill, *sb.* a toll of one shilling levied annually by the sheriffs of Carrickfergus from each vessel trading

to the port. It is to pay the cost of burying the bodies of sailors or others cast on shore. — McSkimin, *Hist. Carrickfergus*.

Charged. '*Charged* or no *charged* she's dangerous:' said of a gun or pistol.

Charity, *sb.* a person who is deserving of charity is said to be a 'great *charity*.'

Charlie. 'It's long o' comin', like Royal *Charlie*:' said of a thing that has been long expected.

Charm. 'That would *charm* the heart of a wheelbarrow;' and 'That would *charm* the heart of a beggar-man's crutch:' said in derision to a person who is singing or whistling badly.

Chase-grace, *sb.* a scapegrace. 'Runnin' about like a *chase-grace*.'

Chay-chay, said to cows to call them or quiet them.

Chay, lady, said to a cow to quiet her.

Check, (1) *sb.* a slight meal. (2) *v.* to chide. 'He *checked* me for going.' To slightly slacken the sheet of a sail.

Cheep, *v.* to chirp.

Cheevy, *v.* to chase. Same as [Chivy](#).

Chert your tongue, bite your tongue. 'If you can't tell the truth, you had better *chert your tongue* and say nothing.'

Chew, sir! away; or behave yourself: said to a dog.

Childhre, *sb. pl.* children.

Chile, *sb.* a child.

Chimin', *v.* singing.

Chimley, *sb.* a chimney.

Chimley brace, *sb.* the screen that conducts the smoke from a fire on the hearth upwards through the roof.

Chirm, *v.* to sing; to make a low, murmuring sound.

Chitterling, (1) *sb.* a swallow.
(2) *v.* chattering, as applied to the noise that swallows make.

Chitty wren, *sb.* the common wren.

Chivy, (1) *sb.* a chace. (2) *v.* to chase or pursue. 'He *chivied* me.'

Chokes, *sb. pl.* the sides of the neck.

Choller, Chillers, *sb. pl.* the sides of the neck.

Chop-stick, *sb.* a small bit of whalebone attached to a sea fishing-line to keep the snood and hook clear of the sinker.

Chow, *v.* to chew.

Chrissimis, *sb.* Christmas.

Christen, (1) *sb.* a human being. 'The poor dog was lyin' on a *Christen's* bed.'
(2) *adj.* Christian.

Chuckie, a hen; the call for fowl.

Churchyard deserter, *sb.* a very sickly-looking person.

Churn *sb.* a harvest home.

Clabber, *sb.* mud. 'They clodded *clabber* at me.'

Clabbery, *adj.* muddy. 'Don't put the dog into that *clabbery* hole.'

Clachan, *sb.* a small cluster of cottages.

Claghtin', *v.* catching or clutching at.

Clam, *sb.* a shell-fish, *Pecten maximus*.

Clamp, *sb.* a small stack of turf, containing about a load. When turfs or peats are 'put out,' they are left for some time to dry; as soon as they can be handled they are put into 'footins' or 'futtins,' *i.e.* about four peats are placed on end, the upper ends leaning against each other. In the course of a week or two, if the weather be dry, these are put into 'turn footins,' several footins being put together. In this case, two rows of turf are placed on end, say six in each row, the upper ends leaning against each other; on these are laid, cross-wise, as many peats as the upright ones will hold. After some time these 'turn footins' are put into '*clamps*,' in which they remain until they are sufficiently dry to be removed from the bog.

Clan-jamfrey, Clam-jamfrey, *sb.* a whole lot of people.

Clargy, *sb.* a clergyman. 'Ah! he's a good man; he's my *clargy*.'

Clarkin', *v.* clerking; doing the work of a clerk.

Clart, *sb.* a dirty, slovenly woman.

Clash, (1) *sb.* a slap or blow. (2) *sb.* a tell-tale. (3) *v.* to tell tales. 'He went and *clashed* on me.'

Clashbag, *sb.* a tale-bearer.

Clatchen, *sb.* a brood of young chickens or ducks.

Clatin', *v.* the act of raking together.

Clatty, *adj.* dirty, slovenly.

Clatty and longsome. 'You weren't both *clatty and longsome* at that,' means that though you were quick about it, you did it badly and dirtily.

Claut, a strong rake for raking up mire or rubbish.

Clavin, a sea-fish, the spotted gunnel, *Blennius Gunnellus*. Called also Flutterick and Codlick.

Claw-hammer, *sb.* a slang name for a pig's foot, also for a dress coat.

Clay-bug, *sb.* a common clay marble.

Clean, *adv.* quite. 'I *clean* forgot.' 'He's *clean* mad.'

Clean ower, *adv.* completely over.

Clean wud, *adj.* stark mad.

Clearsome, *adj.* clear; bright.

Cled, *adj.* thickly covered, as a branch with fruit.

Cleek, *sb.* a hook.

Cleeked up, *adj.* hooked up, as window curtains sometimes are.

Cleekups, *sb.* stringhalt; a twitching disease in the hind legs of a horse or ass.

Cleet, *sb.* a double hook used in a boat for belaying small ropes to.

Cleg, (1) *sb.* the gad fly. (2) *v.* to clog.

Clemmed to death, *adj.* perished with wet and cold.

Cleush, *sb.* a sluice; a water channel or spout.

Clever, *adj.* large; fine-looking.

Clib, *sb.* a horse one year old.

Clifted, *adj.* cleft or split.

Clincher, *sb.* a convincing statement or argument that settles the matter.

Cling, *v.* to shrink or contract, as wood in drying.

Clint, *sb.* a projecting rock.

Clip, *sb.* a gaff, or strong iron hook with a wooden handle, used for landing fish; a mischievous young girl.

Clipe, *sb.* anything pretty large. 'A *clipe* of a boy.'

Clipes, *sb.* tongs for holding stones when being lifted by a winch.

Clish-ma-claver, *sb.* silly talk; nonsense.

Clitterty, clatterty, meal upon Saturday.
The rattling nosie of a grinding mill is supposed to resolve itself into these words. Another form —

‘*Clitterty, clatterty*, late upon Saturday

Barley parritch, an’ hardly that.’

Clockin’, *v.* hatching.

Clocks, (1) *sb. pl.* dandelions in seed.
(2) ‘I’d as soon watch *clocks* [beetles] as mind them childre.’

Clod, *v.* to throw anything, such as stones.

Cloot, *sb.* a hoof.

Clootie, *sb.* a left-handed person.

Cloots, (1) *sb. pl.* ragged clothes; fragments of cloth. (2) *sb.* the devil

Close side, *sb.* the right side of a carcase of mutton, so called because the kidney at that side adheres more closely than at the left, which is called the open side.

Cloth, *sb.* linen.

Clout, (1) *sb.* a slap. ‘A’ll gi’e ye a *clout* on the lug if ye dar’ to clash.’
(2) *v.* to slap.

Clove, *sb.* an instrument used in the preparation of flax; by it the ‘shows’ are removed which have not been taken off at the ‘scutch mill.’

Clutch, *sb.* the silty substance in which oysters are partly embedded on the oyster banks near Carrickfergus.

Coag, *sb.* a vessel for carrying or holding water, made of hoops and staves, like a small barrel, with one of the ends removed.

Coal, *sb.* a lap of hay; a lap cock.

Coaling hay, *v.* rolling it in small cocks after being cut.

Coast anent, *v.* Farm labourers who are given money to lodge and board themselves are said to ‘*coast anent*’.

Coat, (1) *sb.* a woman’s gown. (2) ‘I wear my *coat* none the worse for it to-day,’ *i.e.* I am nothing the worse now for having been in a much lower position at one time.’

Cobble, *v.* to bargain or haggle.

Cobblety-curry, *sb.* Same as [Shuggy-shu](#) (1).

Cobbs, *or* Herring Cobbs, *sb. pl.* young herrings.

Cock-bread, *sb.* a mixture of hard-boiled eggs and other things with which game cocks are fed.

Cocked up, *adj.* conceited.

Cocker, *sb.* a cock-fighter.

Cockers, Caackers, *sb. pl.* the heels of a horse’s shoe turned down.

Cockles of the heart. A warm drink or a dram is said to ‘warm the *cockles of one’s heart*.’

Cocks, *sb.* a common wild plant, *Plantago*. Children amuse themselves in summer with knocking off the heads of each other's *cocks*. This is called 'fighting cocks.'

Cock-shot, *sb.* anything set up as a mark at which to throw stones.

Cock-stride, *sb.* applied to the lengthening of the days. "About oul' New Year's Day, the days is a *cock-sthride* longer." — Ollminick.

Cod, (1) *sb.* a silly, troublesome fellow. (2) *v.* to humbug or quiz a person; to hoax; to idle about. 'Quit your *coddin*.'

Codger, *sb.* a crusty old fellow.

Codlick, *sb.* a fish, the spotted gunnel.

Coffin-cutter, *sb.* *Ocypus olens*, the cock-tail, an insect larger than an earwig, of a black colour. Called also The Devil's Coachman.

Cog, (1) *sb.* a wedge or support fixed under anything to steady it. (2) *v.* to steady anything that is shaky by wedging it; to place a wedge under a cart-wheel to prevent the cart going down hill.

Coggle, *v.* to shake.

Cogglety, Coggly, *adj.* shaky; unsteady.

Colcannon, *sb.* potatoes and 'curley kail' mashed together. A dish of *Colcannon* used to form part of the dinner on Hallow-eve, and usually

contained a ring. The finder of the ring was to be married first.

Cold comfort, *sb.* no comfort at all.

'That's *cold comfort* ye're givin' me.'

Compare "He receives comfort like cold porridge." — *Tempest*, Act ii. sc. i.

Coldrife, *adj.* chilly; cold; of a chilly nature. 'Some people's naturally *coldrife*.'

Colf, *v.* to wad a gun.

Colfin', *sb.* the material used to wad a gun.

Colley, *sb.* smuts.

Collogue, (1) *sb.* a confidential chat.

(2) *v.* to talk confidentially.

Collop, *sb.* a slice of meat.

Collop Monday, *sb.* the day before Shrove Tuesday.

Colly [coalie], a dog. 'It's as clean as if *Colly* had licked it:' said of a plate or bowl that has been thoroughly emptied and polished off.

Come back. 'Come back an' pay the bap ye eat,' *i.e.* come back; don't hurry away.

Come in, *v.* to suit; to serve. 'It's sure to *come in* for some use.'

Come on, *v.* to grow up; to thrive. 'The chile's *comin'* on finely.'

Come over, *v.* to repeat anything told in confidence. 'Now don't *come over* that.'

Come round, *v.* to recover from illness. 'Doctor, do you think he's *comin'* roun'.

Come speed, *v.* to get on with any work. 'Are ye *comin'* much *speed* wi' the job?'

Commanding pain, *sb.* a severe pain, such as almost disables one.

Common, (1) *sb.* hockey; a game. Same as [Shinney](#). Called in some districts *Comun* and *Kamman*, from the Irish name for the game. (2) 'As *common* as potatoes,' *i.e.* of very low extraction, or a comparison for anything very common.

Connough worm, *sb.* the caterpillar of *Sphinx atropos*. "Cows eating of the grass that it passes over are believed to be affected with that fatal distemper called the *connough*."
— McSkimin's *Hist. Carrickfergus*, 1823.

Conquer, *sb.* a conqueror.

Consate, (1) *sb.* conceit; a pleasurable pride. 'He takes a great *consate* in his garden.' (2) *sb.* conceit. To 'knock the *consate* out of any one,' means to give him a beating.

Constancy, *sb.* a permanency. 'I wouldn't do it for a *constancy*,' *i.e.* I would not make a practice of it.

Contrairy, (1) *adj.* obstinate; contradictory. 'Now, what's the good o' bein' so *contrairy*?' (2) Inconvenient. 'It happened at a most *contrairy* time.'

(3) *v.* to prove the contrary; to controvert. 'I couldn't *contrairy* that.'

Convenient, *adj.* near. 'His house is *convenient* to the church.'

Convoy, *v.* to escort or accompany.

Coody doon, *v.* kneel down. 'Coody doon an' say yer prayers.' Same as [Coorie doon](#).

Coof, or Couf, *sb.* a clownish fellow.

Coo-pushla, *sb.* a single dropping of a cow.

Coorie doon, *v.* kneel down. Same as [Coody doon](#).

Coorse Christian, *sb.* a rough fellow.

Coorse morning, *sb.* coarse morning, *i.e.* very wet or stormy. This is a common greeting.

Coo-sherran, *sb.* cow-dung.

Corby, *sb.* the grey crow or hooded crow. The *corby* has become rare in Antrim and Down since the purchasing of dead horses and cows by the artificial manure makers became usual.

Corker, *sb.* a large pin; anything large — a large fish, for instance.

Cormoral, *sb.* a cormorant.

Corn, *sb.* oats.

Corny-gera, or Corny-keevor, *sb.* the missel thrush, *Turdus vicivorous*.

Corp, *sb.* a corpse.

Corrag, *sb.* a wind guard for the door of a cottage, made of interlaced branches. Same as [Wassock](#).

Corruption, *sb.* matter from a sore.

Corvorant, *sb.* a cormorant.

Cot, *sb.* a flat-bottomed boat.

Coulter-neb, *sb.* the puffin.

Colt fit, *sb.* colt's-foot, *Tussilago*.

Country, *sb.* 'My *country*' is the common way of saying 'the part of the country where I live,' so that if two farmers from districts three or four miles apart meeting at market, one asks the other, 'What's the news in your *country*?'

Country Joan, *sb.* an uncouth country person.

County crop, *sb.* having one's hair cut very short, as it would be cut in the county prison. 'You've got the *county crop*:' said in ridicule.

Course, *v.* 'To *course* a lime-kiln' is to put in the alternate layers of limestone and coal.

Coutther, *sb.* a plough-share.

Cove, (1) *sb.* a cave. (2) *v.* to rub a flagged floor with a 'coving-stone.'

Cove, *v.* to rub a flagged floor with a 'coving stone.'

Covered car, *sb.* a car with two wheels, drawn by one horse. There is room

inside for four passengers, who sit facing each other. The door and step are at the back, the driver sits in front, perched up near the top. There are two very small windows in front, and one in the door.

Cowl, *adj.* cold.

Cowp, *v.* to upset; to empty.

Cow's-clap, *sb.* a piece of cow's-dung.

Cow's tail. 'To grow down, like a *cow's tail*:' said in derision to a person who is supposed to be growing shorter instead of taller.

Crab, *v.* to carp; to scold at. 'A couldn't thole bein' *crabbed* at, when A didn't do nothin' ondaicent.'

Crab's allowance, *sb.* the treatment that juvenile fishers give to those crabs ('partens') that fasten on their hooks and eat off the bait — the crabs, when landed, are instantly trampled to death.

Crack, (1) *sb.* a chat. (2) *v.* to gossip or chat; to boast.

Cracked, *adj.* damaged: as 'cracked hams,' hams which are slightly damaged in appearance.

Cracker, *sb.* the thin cord at the end of a whip; a boaster.

Cracks, *sb. pl.* tales; gossip.

Crane, *sb.* the iron arm over a fire from which the 'crook' hangs.

Crapen, *sb.* the crop of a fowl.

Crave, *v.* 'To *crave* a man,' to apply to him for payment of a debt.

Craw, Crow, *sb.* a rook.

Creel-pig, *sb.* a young pig, such as is taken to market in a creel or basket.

Creepers, *sb. pl.* lice. Same as [Podes](#).

Creepy, or Creepy-stool, *sb.* a very low stool.

Creesh, (1) *sb.* a punishment of an uncertain kind. 'You'll get the *creesh*,' i.e. punishment.

(2) *sb.* grease.

Creeshy, *adj.* greasy.

Creuben, *sb.* a crab.

Crib, or Crib-stone, *sb.* the curb-stone at the edge of a foot-path.

Crine, *v.* to shrink.

Crock, *sb.* a derisive term for a person who fancies himself ailing or delicate.

Crocky, *adj.* fanciful about his health; hippish.

Croft, *sb.* a space surrounded by farm buildings. 'Just go through thon farmer's *croft* down there,' a small field near a house.

Cronkin, *adj.* to describe the baying sound made by a flock of Brent geese.

Croo, *sb.* a poor, filthy cabin. See [Pig Croo](#).

Croodle, *v.* to crouch; to cuddle.

Crook, *sb.* a hook which is suspended from the 'crane' in a kitchen chimney for hanging the pot or griddle from. 'As black as the *crook*,' very black.

Croon, *v.* to lament or wail.

Croose, *adj.* sharp-tempered; pugnacious; irritable; conceited. 'He's as *croose* as a banty cock.'

Crop, *v.* to crop land. 'To put in *crop*,' to sow seed.

Cross. 'He would steal the *cross* off an ass:' said of an avaricious person.

Crottle, *sb.* a lichen. A decoction of it is used for dyeing.

Crowl, (1) *sb.* a small person; a dwarf. 'A *crowl* on a creepy looks naethin,' saying. (2) *v.* to stunt the growth of anything. It is said that dogs can be *crowled* by giving them whiskey when they are young, and that a child is *crowled* if a man puts his leg over the child's head.

Crown of the causey, *sb.* the centre of the road, the driest and cleanest part, and therefore taken possession of by the strongest. The expression refers to the old paved country roads, which had no side paths.

Crub, (1) *sb.* a horse's curb-chain.

(2) *v.* to check. 'The caterpillars *crub* the blooms of the roses.'

Cruden, *sb.* a parten (crab), *Carcinus maenas*, of a reddish colour.

Cruds, *sb. pl.* curds.

Cruel, Crule, *adj.* very. ‘Cruel big.’ ‘Cruel nice.’ ‘Cruel purty.’

Cruels, *sb.* the king’s evil.

Cruffles, *sb. pl.* a kind of potatoes.

Crule han’, *sb.* a disagreeable spectacle; a bad case. ‘He’s made a *crule* han’ o’ hisself with the dhrink.’ Same as [Sore Hand](#).

Crulge, *v.* to crouch near the fire; to cramp oneself by sitting in a crouching attitude.

Crumbs. Children are recommended to eat up the *crumbs*, ‘for the *crumbs* will make you wise.’

Crummel, *sb.* a crumb.

Crumming-knife, *sb.* a cooper’s tool.

Cruse, *adj.* captious; cross.

Cuckle, *sb.* a cockle.

Cuckoo-sorrel, *sb.* wood sorrel, *Oxalis acetosella*.

Cuckoo-spittle, *sb.* the white froth deposited on plants, which is secreted by and encloses the young of an insect, *Aphromora spumaria*.

Cudden, *sb.* a small fish, the young of the coal-fish, *Merlangus carbonarius*.

Cuddy, *sb.* a donkey.

‘Cudnae tell a B frae a bill’s-fit,’ applied to a person utterly ignorant.

Cuidhich, *sb.* a night’s lodging and food.

Culloch, *sb.* the broad-nosed eel, *Anguilla latirostris*. This word is used at Lough Neagh, and is the Irish *Colloch* = wicked, in allusion to this eel’s voracious habits. It is also called Hunter Eel and Gorb Eel.

Cummings, *sb. pl.* the rootlets of malt.

Curchie, *sb.* a curtsey.

Curcudioughly, *adv.* comfortably; cosily.

Curl doddy, *sb.* a flower, the blue scabious, *Scabiosa succisa*. Children twist the stalk of this flower, and as it slowly untwists in the hand, say to it:

‘*Curl doddy* on the midden,

Turn round an’ tak’ my biddin’”

Curleys, *sb.* curled kail.

Curmurring, *sb.* grumbling; the sound cause by *flatus* within the body.

Curn, *sb.* a currant.

Curnaptious, *adj.* quarrelsome; cross-grained.

Custom gate, Custom gap, *sb.* one of the approaches to a fair.

Cut, (1) *sb.* a measure of linen yarn. See under [Spangle](#) and [Lea](#). (2) *v.* to tack from side to side up an inclined plane;

to move a heavy object forward by pushing each end alternately.

Cut butter. 'It would *cut butter*, if it was hot,' is said of a particularly blunt knife.

Cut meat, To, *v.* to eat anything. 'They never *cut meat* from Saturday till Wednesday:' said of a lot of sheep which were in transit from Ireland to England.

Cuts. 'To draw *cuts*,' to draw lots.

Cutter, *sb.* a slate pencil.

Cutty, (1) *sb.* a short, clay pipe. (2) *sb.* a sea bird, the razor-bill. Also the guillemot. (3) 'There you are puttin' in your *cutty* among spoons,' said to a youngster who attempts to join in the conversation of the elders.

Cutty full. 'You hav'n't a *cutty full*' (of brains), *i.e.* you have no sense.

D

Da, Dada, *sb.* father. 'Hi *da*! come home to the wain!'

Da-dilly, *sb.* a helpless, useless person. 'She's a sore *da-dilly* of a crayture.'

Dab, (1) *sb.* a small flat fish. (2) *sb.* a snatch, or clutch.

Dab at the hole, *sb.* a game of marbles.

Dad of bread, *sb.* a large lump of bread.

Daffy-downdillies, *sb.* daffodils.

Daft, *adj.* weak-minded; mad.

Da-ho, *sb.* the hedge parsley, *Anthriscus sylvestris*. See [Hi-how](#).

Dais, *sb.* A log used as a seat, and placed against the gable of a cottage at the back of the fire, that is where a 'round about' fire was used. If the fire-place was against the gable there was of course no room for a *dais*.

Daiver, *v.* to strike a person such a blow as almost to stun him.

Daivered, *adj.* doting; bewildered. Same as [Doithered](#).

Damsel, (1) *sb.* a damson. (2) *sb.* an iron rod with projecting pins, that shakes the shoot of the hopper in a corn mill.

Dander, on the dander; idling about; on the spree.

Dandher, (1) *sb.* a slow walk. 'I'll just take a *dandher*.' (2) *v.* to saunter; to walk about slowly.

Dangersome, *adj.* dangerous.

Dapery, *sb.* When oats are being put through frames the lightest grains fall through a sieve, and are collected by themselves, these are called *dapery*, *co.*

Antrim. In co. Down they are called 'wake corn,' *i.e.* weak corn.

Dare, *or* Dar, *v.* to taunt, or challenge. 'He *darred* me to fight him.'

Dark, *adj.* blind. 'Will you give something to a poor *dark* woman?'

Darlin, *adj.* nice. 'A *darlin'* red-head,' means a nice head of red hair.

Daundereed, *adj.* dazed.

Daurna, *v.* dare not. Sometimes Daurnae.

Daver, *s.* [sic] to stun.

Davy, *sb.* an affidavit. 'I'll take my *davy*.'

Daw, *sb.* a lazy, good for nothing person.

Dawmson plume, *sb.* a damson.

Day, *sb.* one's lifetime. See under [Your day](#).

Day an' daily, *adv.* constantly; every day.

Dayligon, Dayly goin, *sb.* (daylight going); the dusk of the evening.

Dead end. 'If you saw it you would take your *dead end*,' *i.e.* you would die of laughter.

Dead knowledge, *sb.* deceitfulness; cunning.

Dead man's plunge, *sb.* this is made by throwing a stone, so that it enters the surface of water with such force that no splash is made.

Dead men's pinches, *sb.* Small discoloured marks on the skin, which come mysteriously during the night, and which show themselves in the morning. They resemble the marks of *pinches* or bruises.

Deaf nut, *sb.* an empty nut.

Dear bless you! God bless you [?], an exclamation.

Dear help you! God help you [?], an exclamation.

Dear knows. A common rejoinder, meaning 'who *knows*,' or 'no-body *knows*,' probably meant originally, 'God only *knows*.'

Dear love you! God love you [?], an exclamation.

Deave, *v.* to deafen; to bewilder. 'You would *deave* one's ears.'

Debate, *sb.* a defence, or fight. 'He can make a great *debate* for himself.'

Deck of cards, *sb.* a pack of cards.

Decline, *sb.* consumption.

Dede auld, *adj.* very old.

Deed and doubles, indeed.

Deil, (1). 'The *deil* couldn't do it unless he was drunk:' said of something very difficult. (2) 'The *deil* gang wi' ye, an' saxpence, an' ye'll nether want money nor company,' a saying.

Deil bane ye, an expression of anger.

Deil perlickit, nothing. ‘What fortune did his wife bring him?’ ‘Oh, *deil perlickit*, tied up in a clout.’

Deil’s needle, *sb.* a dragon-fly.

Demands, *sb.* commands. ‘Have you any *demands* into town?’

Demean, *v.* to lower, or disgrace. ‘I wouldn’t *demean* myself to speak to him.’

Demin ane, *sb.* an odd one, *i.e.* singular, unusual.

Den, (1) *sb.* a dark cellar in a mill building. (2) the place of safety in games, such as ‘Hy spy.’

Desperation, *sb.* a great rage. ‘The master was in *desperation*.’

Deval, Devalve, *or* Develve, *v.* to desist.

Devarshion, *sb.* ridicule.
‘Makin’ *divarshion*,’ turning into ridicule.

Devil’s churn staff, the sun spurge, *Euphorbia helioscopia*.

Devil’s coachman, *sb.* an insect. Same as [Coffin cutter](#).

Dhirl, *sb.* a good-for-nothing person.

Dhrap with hunger, *v.* to die of hunger. ‘If I was *dhrappin*’ with hunger I wouldn’t ask him for a farden.’

Dhruv, *v.* drove; driven. ‘I *dhruv* past him.’ ‘A’ve *dhruv* that horse these five year.’

Dibble, *sb.* a pointed wooden implement for making holes in the ground for planting in.

Dibble, *or* Dibble in, *v.* to plant by means of a *dibble*.

Diddies, *sb.* the breasts of a woman.

Differ, *sb.* the difference.

Dig, (1) *sb.* a blow. ‘I wish I had three *digs* at him.’ (2) ‘To *dig* with the wrong foot,’ is a way of saying that the person referred to belongs to a religious persuasion different from that of the speaker.

Dig wi’ baith feet, this is said of a clever person. Compare Two hand boy.

Dig with the same foot, to belong to the same religious denomination.

Dimpsy brown, *adj.* ‘*Dimpsy brown*, the colour of a mouse’s waistcoat,’ an undecided colour.

Din, *adj.* dun, or brown-coloured.

Dinge, (1) *sb.* a dint. (2) *v.* to dint.

Dingle, *or* Dinle, *v.* to throb; to vibrate; to tingle.

Dinlin, *adj.* trembling; vibrating.

Directly, just so; precisely.

Dirt bird, *sb.* the skua. It follows flocks of sea-gulls, and chases these birds till they disgorge the contents of their stomachs, and the vomited matter the *dirt bird* eats. See [Allan hawk](#).

Discomfuffle, *v.* to incommode.

Discoorse, *v.* to talk to. ‘Come here till I *discoorse* you.’

Disgist, *v.* to digest.

Disremember, *v.* to forget.

Distress, *sb.* a sickness. ‘Since I had that *distress* in my head.’

Ditch, *sb.* a fence, generally of earth.

Divil mend ye. ‘Served you right.’ ‘You deserved it richly.’

Divvid, *v.* divided. ‘We *divvid* them as well as we cud.’

Do [doo], *v.* to recover from illness. ‘I’m thinkin’ he’s not goin’ to *do*.’

Dochrai, *sb.* gruel.

Dockan, *sb.* a dock-plant. When a boy gets stung by a nettle he searches for a dock leaf, and rubs it on the wounded part, repeating the charm, ‘*Dockan, Dockan*, in. Nettle, nettle, out.’

Dofe, *adj.* heavy; stupid, as with a cold; also to describe a dull heavy sound.

Doff, *v.* to take the full bobbins off a spinning-frame in a mill.

Doffer, *sb.* a girl who doffs, *i.e.* takes off the full bobbins from the spinning frames. The *doffers* are the youngest girls employed in flax spinning-mills.

Dog, *sb.* the end of a rainbow. It generally precedes or accompanies a squall at sea. Same as [Weather gall](#).

Dog wilk, *sb.* a sea mollusc, *Purpura lapillus*.

Doing off, *sb.* a scolding.

Doithered, *adj.* doting; bewildered.

Dolachan, *sb.* a large lake trout, not so large as the ‘buddagh,’ but same species (*Salmo ferox*).

Doldram, *adj.* confused; stupid.

Dolfer, Dolver, *sb.* a large marble.

Dolly. ‘He had hardly a *dolly* on him,’ means he had scarcely any clothes on him.

Done, *v.* did. In the same way ‘seen’ is used for saw; ‘had went,’ for had gone, &c.

Done man, *sb.* a worn-out old man.

Donse, *sb.* the devil

Donsy, Dauncey, *adj.* sick; sick-looking.

Dool, *sb.* a kind of nail. An iron spike, sharp at both ends.

Dooled, a cooper’s term. “The head and bottom equally *dooled* and set into the cross.” — *Belfast News-letter*, 1738.

Dooless, *adj.* helpless; thriftless.

Dorn, *sb.* a narrow neck of water (not fordable) between two islands, or

between an island and the mainland (Strangford Lough).

Dotard, *adj.* doting.

Dotther, *v.* to totter.

Douce, *adj.* neat; tidy.

Dour, *adj.* sulky; disagreeable.

Dousing, *sb.* a beating. 'A good *dousing*.'

Dowd, *sb.* a woman's white cap without any frilling.

Dowdy cap, *sb.* Same as [Dowd](#).

Down in the mouth, in low spirits.

Dowp, *sb.* a candle-end; also a child's 'bundie.'

Dowse, *v.* to extinguish.

Doylt, *adj.* stupid.

Dozed, *adj.* decayed, applied to wood.

Drabs, *sb.* See [Dribs](#).

Draft, *sb.* a drawing, or picture.

Drafts, *sb.* cart-traces made of chain.

Drapisy, *sb.* dropsy.

Drap it like a hot potato, *i.e.* drop it at once.

Draw, (1) *v.* to cart. 'He's away *drawin'* peats.' (2) *v.* to lift or raise for the purpose of attack. 'He *drew* his fist, and hit him on the face.' 'He *drew* his foot and kicked her.'

Drawky, *adj.* wet; misty. 'It's a *drawky* day.'

Dredge, *sb.* a boat used for dredging in harbours.

Dredge box, *sb.* a flour dredger.

Dreegh, *adj.* dreary; tedious; slow. 'It's a *dreegh* jab' (a wearisome piece of business). 'A *dreegh* road' (a tedious road). 'A *dreegh* boy' (a slow boy).

Dreep, *v.* to drip slowly; to ooze.

Dreepin', *adj.* very wet; dripping.

Dribs and drabs, *sb.* small amounts. 'He pays it in *dribs and drabs*.'

Dring, *v.* to delay; to linger.

Dringing, *adj.* lingering, or dawdling on the way. 'Come on, Joan, an' don't be *dringing* behind.'

Drink-a-penny, the bald coot, *Fulica atra*. The little grebe is also so called.

Drogget, *sb.* cloth which is a mixture of flax and wool. Of the off-spring of mixed marriages it is sometimes said, 'They're *drogget*, an' that's the worst of all cloth.'

Droghey, *adj.* drizzly.

Droll, *sb.* a tale, or story.

Drooned, *adj.* When the sky is overcast and dark all round, it is said to have 'a *drooned* appearance.'

Drop, *sb.* a rather small quantity. ‘Give us a wee *drop*.’

Droukit, *adj.* drenched; drowned. ‘As wet as a *droukit* rat.’

Drouth, *sb.* thirst; a drought.

Drown the miller, this is said to be done when too much water is added to the whiskey in a glass of grog.

Drown your Shamrock. On Patrick’s day (March 17th) persons are frequently requested to come and drown their *shamrocks*, this means to have a drink. On this day when anyone is observed in liquor, he is said to have been ‘drowning his *shamrock*.’

Drudge, (1) *sb.* a dredge. (2) *v.* to dredge for oysters; to shake flour from a dredger.

Drugget, *sb.* to speak *drugget*. To endeavour to graft a fine accent on a vulgar one.

Drum, *sb.* ‘I’ll give you what Paddy gave the *drum*,’ *i.e.* a good beating.

Drumlin, *sb.* a mound or ridge of gravel (*Co. Down, Geo. Survey*).

Druthy, *adj.* thirsty.
‘Talkin’s *druthy* work.’

Dub, *sb.* mud. “Their petticoats weel kill ahin, nor *dub*, nor stoure mismay them.” — Huddleston.

Ducey, *adj.* juicy.

Duck, *sb.* a dip in the sea. ‘I can take nine back *ducks* running,’ *i.e.* in succession.

Duck at the table, *sb.* a boy’s game played with round stones, and a table-shaped block of stone.

Duck in thunder. ‘He turned up his eyes like a *duck* in thunder,’ saying expressive of astonishment.

Duck’s meat, hardened mucous in the corners of the eyes after sleeping.

Duds, *sb.* clothes, ragged clothes.

Due sober, *sb.* quite sober.

Duggen, *v.* dug. ‘I’ll get that plot *duggen*.’

Duke, (1) *sb.* a duck. (2) *v.* to evade; to stoop the head so as to avoid a blow. Same as [Juke](#).

Dullis, Dillisk, *sb.* dulce, *Rhodomenia palmata*, a sea-weed, eaten or rather chewed, after having been dried for a few days in the sun.

Dumb craythurs, *sb.* the lower animals.

Dunch, *v.* to push, or butt. ‘That cow will *dunch* you.’

Dundher, (1) *sb.* a violent noisy blow. ‘A *dundher* came to my door.’ (2) *v.* to make a dull heavy noise, such as pounding.

Dunduckity, *adj.* ‘*Dunduckity* mud colour, the colour of a mouse’s diddy,’ an undecided colour.

Dunne, *sb.* a bird, the knot, *Tringa canutus*.

Dunny, *sb.* the skate, *Raia batis*.

Dunt, *sb.* a push; a hard blow.

Dure, *sb.* a door.

Durgan, (1) a short stout person; a kind of pig. (2) *sb.* oatmeal fried in dripping, and sometimes flavoured with leeks, &c., co. Down. This dish is called in co. Antrim, mealy-crushy.

Durin’ ash or oak, for ever.

Dursent, dare not. ‘They *dursent* do it.’

Duskiss, *sb.* the dusk; the evening.

Duty hens, *sb.* fowls of which a tenant has to give a certain number to his landlord each year.

Dwamish, *adj.* feeling sick.

Dwaum, *sb.* a fainting fit; a sudden fit of sickness.

Dwine, *v.* to die away; to decline in health; to diminish.

Dwyble, *v.* to walk with a foltering [sic] gait, as if weak in the limbs.

Dwybly, *adj.* shaky; tottering.

Dyke Sheugh, *sb.* a ditch or trench, alongside a fence.

Dyor, *sb.* a small quantity of any liquid. A wee *dyor* is the same as ‘a wee sup,’ ‘a wee drop.’

Dyorrie, *adj.* dwarfed; small. ‘There’s a *dyorrie* pig in every litter,’ saying.

Dyuggins, *sb.* shreds and tatters.

E

Earles, *sb.* earnest money. Same as [Airles](#).

Ears, (1). When the right *ear* is hot, some one is speaking ill of you; when the left *ear* is hot, some one is speaking good of you. (2) ‘I can’t hear my *ears*,’ *i.e.* there is such a din that I can’t hear a word.

Earywig, *sb.* an earwig.

Easin, *sb. pl.* the eaves of thatch. Same as [Aizins](#).

Edge, *sb.* an adze. ‘Foot *edge*,’ a foot adze.

Ee, Een, *sb.* eye; eyes.

Eedyet, *sb.* an idiot.

Eelans, of the same age. ‘We’re *eelans*.’

Eel oil, *sb.* used as a cure for deafness.

Eel skins, *sb.* these are used for bandages for sprains, and are supposed to possess a curative property; they are bound round the hurt wet and slimy, just as they are taken off the eels. *Eel-skin* is also used for the 'hooden,' or 'mid-kipple' of a flail.

Ekes an' ens, *sb.* odds and ends; small scraps of things turned to account. 'Ekes an' ens rise to something if you just put them together.' 'Between *ekes an' ens* I've managed this.'

Elder, *sb.* a cow's udder.

Elk, *sb.* a term for the wild swan (Harris, *Hist. co. Down*).

Elsin, *sb.* a shoemaker's awl.

End. 'From end to one' = from one end to the other; throughout. 'I've cleaned the hedge from *end* to one.' 'The story's known from *end* to one through the whole place.'

Endeavour, *sb.* an attempt; one's utmost. To do one's *endeavour* = to try earnestly. 'He come in, an' they done their whole *endeavour* to get him out.' 'Make an *endeavour* to do it.'

End's erran'. 'On one end's *erran'*, on one single purpose or errand.

Eneugh between melts and rounds, *i.e.* between one thing and another: the allusion is to the *milt* and *roe* of herrings.

Engrained, Ingrained, *v.* A very dirty-looking person is said 'to have the dirt *engrained* into his skin.'

Enjain, Injain, *sb.* an ingenious thing. 'That's a great *enjain*.'

Entertainment, *sb.* lodging and food. '*Entertainment* for man and beast,' a notice.

Entry mouth, *sb.* the end of an entry or lane, where it opens upon a street.

Ere yesterday, *sb.* the day before yesterday.

Erran', *sb.* an errand. 'If A mak an *erran'* tae yer face, it 'ill no be tae kiss ye,' said in anger.

Errock, *sb.* a young hen.

Espibawn, *sb.* the ox eye, *Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*.

Eternal, *adj.* infernal. 'He's an *eternal* villain.' Compare Shakespeare, 'The eternal devil.'

Ettle, *v.* to intend.

Even, *v.* to impute. 'Would you *even* the like of that to me.'

Even ash, *sb.* an ash-leaf with an even number of leaflets, used in a kind of divination. The young girl who finds one repeats the words —

"This *even ash* I hold in my han',
The first I meet is my true man."

She then asks the first male person she meets on the road, what his Christian name is, and this will be the name of her future husband.

Evenlier, *adj.* more even.

Even one's wit, *v.* to condescend to argue with another. 'I wouldn't *even my wit* to you.'

Even on, *or* Even down, applied to heavy, continuous rain. 'There was an *even down* pour.'

Every, each. 'There's a chimley on *every* en' o' the house.'

Eyes, (1) When the right *eye* itches it is a sign of crying; when the left *eye* itches it is a sign of laughing. (2) 'Your *eyes* are like two burnt holes in a blanket,' an expression of derision.

Eye sore, *sb.* a blemish; anything that looks ill.

F

Face card, *sb.* a court card.

Fadge, (1) *sb.* a kind of thick bread made of potatoes and flour or meal, baked on a griddle. (2) *sb.* a bale of goods of an irregular shape.

Failed, looking very ill, or in impaired health.

Fairin', *sb.* a present from a fair.

Faize, Fiz, *v.* to show or make an impression. 'Drink never *fizzes* on that man.' 'He took all the medicine, and it never *faized* on him.'

Fall, *v.* to fell trees.

Falling hatchet, *sb.* an axe for cutting down trees.

Fan, *v.* to fawn, as 'the dog *fans* on me.'

Fangled, *v.* entangled. 'The cow has got *fangled* in her tether.'

Fangs, *sb.* the roots of the teeth.

Fans, *sb.* a winnowing machine.

Far through, nearly finished; very ill.

Farl, *sb.* the fourth of the circular piece of oaten cake, which is baked on a griddle at one time.

Farley, *sb.* a wonder; something strange. See [Spy farlies](#), also used as a term of contempt. 'Ye *farley* ye.'

Farm o' lan', *sb.* a farm.

Farmer. 'By the holy *farmer*,' an oath.

Farness, *sb.* distance. 'What *farness* off do you live?'

Farntickled, *adj.* freckled.

Farntickles, *sb.* freckles. 'The *farntickles* niver sayd a word but

one, that they wouldn't light on a din skin,' saying.

Fash, *v.* to trouble oneself.

'Don't *fash* your lug,' pay no heed; never mind.

Fasten's e'en, *sb.* Shrove Tuesday.

Fatigue, *sb.* hard wear or abuse. 'That cloth will stand *fatigue*.'

Fault, *v.* to blame.

Fause face, a mask.

Favour, *v.* to resemble, as regards family likeness. 'That chile *favours* his father.'

Feat, *adj.* neat; tidy.

Feather, *sb.* the lines and markings seen in polished wood.

Febberwerry, February.

Feck, *sb.* a quantity; the greater quantity or majority.

Feerd, afraid.

Feint a hate, devil a bit; nothing at all.

Felt, *sb.* a bird, the redwing: the fieldfare is here called the 'large blue *felt*.'

Fend off, *v.* to prevent a boat from striking against any object.

Fend off post, *sb.* a post set in the ground to protect an object from injury by carts, &c., coming in contact with it.

Feth i, Heth i, faith yes.

Feth and troth, by faith and truth. '*Feth and troth*, but I won't let you.'

Fettle, *v.* to fix; to settle; to grind the rough edges from iron castings.

Fettler, *sb.* a man who *fettles* castings.

Fiery-edge, *sb.* the first or original edge on a knife or other cutting implement; the first eagerness on commencing a new thing. 'I'll just eat a bit now to take the *fiery-edge* off my appetite.' It is sometimes said of a new servant, 'Oh wait till you see how he does, then the *fiery-edge* goes off him.'

Fike, *v.* to be busy in a trifling way.

Fillaira, *sb.* a plant, valerian; also called villera.

Fined in, *v.* fined. 'He was *fined in* 10s.'

Finger-stail, *sb.* a finger-stall; the finger of an old glove used as a protection for a sore finger.

Fired. When black specks appear on the stem of growing flax, it is said to be *fired* (Mason, 1814).

Firing, *sb.* a kind of mildew or disease to which young flax is subject; called by bleachers 'sprit' (Dubourdieu's *Antrim*, 1812).

Fissling, *sb.* a stealthy noise, such as a faint rustling.

Fisty, *sb.* a nick-name for a person who has only one hand.

Fits. 'It *fits* you to a hair in the water' = it fits you exactly: said of a garment.

Fitty forra coo, *sb.* a cow that has been giving milk for say fifteen months and is not with calf.

Flaff, (1) *sb.* 'Lichenin' *flaff*, a flash of lightning. (2) *v.* to flutter or flap.

Flaghter spade, *sb.* a broad, pointed spade, with one edge turned up, used for paring sods or 'scraws' off the surface of the ground.

Flail, *sb.* A *flail* consists of three parts; the han' stav', the hooden or mid-kipple, which is a piece of cow-skin or eel-skin; and the soople, or part that comes in contact with the grain.

Flake, Flaik, *sb.* a hurdle, or arrangement of branches, on which flax was formerly dried over a fire.

Flannen, *sb.* flannel.

Flatter, to wheedle; to coax; to persuade. 'Away and *flatter* him for the loan of his wheel-barra.'

Flauch, *sb.* a flash.

Flavers, *sb.* what drops from a dog's tongue.

Flax ripple, *sb.* a comb with large iron teeth through which flax is drawn, to remove the bolls or seeds.

Flea, 'He would skin a *flea* for the hide and tallow:' said of an avaricious person.

Flee, *sb.* a fly.

Fleech, *v.* to coax or supplicate in a fawning way.

Fleet-line (float-line), *sb.* a line used in a particular kind of sea-fishing; the hook floats mid-way between the surface and bottom, and is carried away clear off the boat, which remains at anchor by the current.

Flied, Fliet, *adj.* frightened.

Flinch, *sb.* a finch; e.g. gold-flinch.

Flisky, *adj.* skittish, specially applied to a mare which kicks when touched on the flank.

Flit, *v.* to change house. 'Do you *flit* this week or next?'

Flitting, *sb.* furniture, &c., when in transit from one house to another 'A load of *flitting*.'

Floffing, Flaffin', *v.* fluttering, as a bird when held.

Flooster, Floosterer, *sb.* a flatterer.

Flooster, *v.* to flatter, or coax.

Floostered, *v.* flurried.

Flowan, the bog cotton, *Anthemis Cotula*.

Flowans, Flouans, *sb.* the light clinging dust in a flax-scutching mill; small fragments of the flax stem.

Flow-bog, Flow-moss, *sb.* a bog through which water has flowed, or in which it lodges.

Flower, *sb.* a bunch of flowers.

Flug-fisted, left-handed.

Flummery, *sb.* nonsense. See under [Sowans](#).

Flush, (1) *v.* to startle a shoal of herrings at night, so that the fish indicate their presence by disturbing the surface of the water. (2) *sb.* a pool; a pool of water that extends nearly across a road. (3) fledged, as young birds.

Flutterick, *sb.* a fish. Same as [Clavin](#).

Flysome, *adj.* frightful; dreadful.

Fog, *sb.* moss.

Fog-cheese, *sb.* a soft inferior cheese, made late in the year.

Fog-harrow, *sb.* a harrow to clear moss away.

Fog-meal, *sb.* a full or hearty meal. A person who has eaten too much is said to have got a 'fog-fill,' or to be 'fog-fu.'

Foofing, *sb.* the melancholy howling of a dog.

Fool, *adj.* foolish. *E.g.* 'a fool man.'

Fooran, *sb.* a bird, the puffin.

Foosted, *adj.* fusty; decaying; having a bad smell.

Foot and a half, *sb.* a boy's game.

Foot go, *sb.* a sloping plank, with stout laths nailed on to assist the feet, used by masons.

Footins, *sb.* small heaps of cut peat. See under [Clamps](#).

Footther, (1) *sb.* a useless, foolish, or awkward person. 'You're a *footther*, and the duck's ill get you,' common saying. (2) *v.* to idle; to do anything useless. 'Don't stan' *foottherring* there.'

Foottherin', *adj.* handleless.

Footy, *adj.* trifling; small; mean.

For. 'I'm *for* doing it,' *i.e.* I'm going to do it. 'Are you *for* going?' *i.e.* do you intend to go?

Forbears, Forebeers, *sb.* ancestors.

Forbye, (1) *adv.* besides. 'There was two *forbye* myself.' (2) *ad.* [sic] very; past the common. 'That's a *forbye* good horse.'

Forder, (1) *sb.* progress; speed. See [Good forder](#). (2) *v.* to assist; to help forward.

Fordersome, what forwards any work; manageable.

Fore. 'To the *fore*' = in existence.

Fore-end, *sb.* the beginning, or early part. 'He may go out in the *fore-end* of the day.'

Fore-milk, *sb.* the first milk got from a cow at each milking; it is very poor and watery.

Foreway, to get the *foreway* of one; to forestall; to anticipate one.

Forget, *sb.* an omission; a neglect. ‘That was a great *forget*.’

Fornenst, opposite to; in exchange for.

Forra-coo, *sb.* a cow that has been giving milk, for say nine or ten months, and is not with calf.

Forrard, Forrit, *adj.* fast, as a clock. ‘She’s twenty-minutes *forrard*.’

Forth, *sb.* an earthen fort or rath.

Fosey, *adj.* spongy, like an overgrown turnip, or decayed wood.

Foul ground, *sb.* the bottom of the sea, where it is covered with rocks or stones, and sea-weed.

Founded, Foundet, *sb.* anything. ‘There was not a *foundet* in the house,’ *i.e.* there was nothing — always used with a negative.

Founder, *sb.* a catarrh; a cold, or illness. ‘The boy has got a *founder*.’

Foundered, *adj.* exhausted or lamed with wet and cold. ‘The horse was *foundered* in one of his forelegs.’

Fower-square, *adj.* square.

Foxed, *adj.* Women’s cloth boots are *foxed* when they have a binding of

leather on the cloth all round next the sole.

Foxing, *adj.* scheming.

Foxy, *sb.* a term for a red-haired person.

Freen, *sb.* friend, or relative.

Freet, *sb.* an omen.

Freety, *adj.* having belief in charms or omens. ‘We’re no that *freety* about here.’

French flies, *sb.* a boy’s game.

Friend, Freen, *sb.* a relative. ‘They’re far out *friends* of mine, but I niver seen them.’

Frimsy-framsy. Same as [Frincy-francy](#), q.v.

Frincy-francy, *sb.* a game played between the dances at balls in farm-houses. A chair was placed in the middle of the barn or room; the master of the ceremonies led to the chair a young woman, who sat down and named the young man whom she was willing should kiss her. This he did, and then took the seat which the lady vacated.

He then called out the name of some favourite girl, who was led up to him; there was another kiss. The girl then took the seat, and so on (Co. of Down). The same game is called *Frimsey-framsey* in parts of the co. of Antrim.

Frizzens, *sb.* the iron mountins on single and double trees, by which they are attached to a plough or harrow.

From that I went, from the time that I went.

Frost, (1) 'By the holy frost,' an exclamation. (2) 'She'll sit a *frost*,' *i.e.* she will die an old maid. (3) 'The *frost* has taken the air,' this is said when a wet day follows a clear frosty morning.

Frughans, *sb.* whortleberries. Same as [Blaeberries](#).

Frush, *adj.* brittle, as applied to wood, &c.: said of flax when the 'shoughs' separate easily from the fibre.

Fud, *sb.* the tail of a hare.

Full farmer, *sb.* a large, or well-to-do farmer.

Fum turf, *sb.* light spongy turf.

Fur, *sb.* a furrow.

Furrow and land, the hollows and heights on the surface of a millstone.

Fut, *v. i.e.* foot, to walk. 'Ye *futted* it weel' = you walked quickly.

Fuzionless, *adj.* insipid, or innutritious, as applied to fodder, &c., of inferior quality.

Fyammy, *adj.* applied to a sea bottom covered with a growth of 'fyams,' *i.e.* tangles.

Fyams, *sb.* the long sea-weeds known as tangles.

G

Gab, (1) *sb.* the mouth: hence *talk*. 'Gie us none of your *gab*.' (2) 'All *gab* and guts like a young crow,' a comparison.

Gabbuck, *ov* [sic] Gobbock, *sb.* the piked dog-fish.

Gackin', *v.* mocking.

Gaffer, *sb.* the head man over a gang of navvies.

Gag, (1) *sb.* a joke; a deception. (2) *v.* to ridicule. 'They began with *gaggin'* other.'

Gailick, Gelick, *sb.* an earwig.

Gaily pot, *sb.* a jam pot. See [Gelly cup](#).

Gaining, *adj.* winsome; lovesome.

Gaits, *sb.* sheaves of corn set up singly on end. They are tied higher up than usual, so as to allow the base to spread.

Gallon, *sb.* the butter burr, *Petasites vulgaris*.

Gallowses, *sb.* suspenders.

Galore, Galyore, *sb.* abundance.

Game. A dog is said to be *game* if it does not howl when held up by the tail or ear.

Game leg, *sb.* a lame leg; a leg shorter than its fellow.

Gammel, *sb.* the back of the knee of a horse's hind leg.

Ganch, *sb.* an awkward, silly fellow. 'A sore *ganch* of a craithur.'

Gang ower (going over), *sb.* a scolding.

'Gang up the hous,' go on to the best room or parlour, *i.e.* when the parlour is *up* a step from the passage or outer room. In some farmhouses, where the parlour is down a step, the expression used is 'Gang doon the hous' an' mine the step.'

Gangway, *sb.* a frequented thoroughfare. 'Oh, we live right in the *gangway*.'

Gant, Gaunt, *sb.* a yawn.

Gant, Gaunt, *v.* to yawn.

Gapeseed, *sb.* what one can see or spy out; what catches the eye. 'They came in here just for *gapeseed*, for they had no erran.'

Gar, *v.* to make or cause.

Garron, *sb.* an old horse.

Gash, *sb.* a rent or gap. 'That cow has made a sore *gash* in your hedge.'

Gaskin, *sb.* any material, such as flax or india-rubber, used to pack the joints of steam or water-pipes.

Gather, *v.* to suppurate.

Gathering, *sb.* a suppuration.

Gatherup, *sb.* a wandering rag-man.

Gavel, *sb.* a gable.

Gaw, *sb.* a trap-dyke. Also called a March. Hamilton's *Antrim*, 1784.

Gawk, *sb.* an awkward person.

Gazebo, *sb.* a stand at a racecourse; a tall building from which a look-out can be had; a staring looking building.

Gazened, *sb.* When the seams of a boat, a barrel, or any wooden article are opened and gaping in consequence of heat or drought it is said to be *gazened*.

Gelly cup, *sb.* a small jam pot or cup.

Gentle, *adj.* haunted by fairies. The large hawthorns growing singly are deemed sacred to fairies, and are hence called *gentle thorns*. McSkimin's *Carrickfergus*, 1823.

Gentry, *sb.* the fairies.

Gentry bushes, 'fairy thorns,' &c. They are sacred to the 'good people,' and are therefore let alone.

Get, (1) *sb.* an opprobrious term used in scolding matches. (2) *v.* to be called. 'He *gets* the name of Toal,' *i.e.* he is commonly called Toal. 'His name is Mulgrew, but he *gets* Timony.'

Get out of the sheugh, get out of the way.

Get yer heed in yer han', *v.* to get a great scolding.

Get your lines, *v.* to be dismissed from employment. Same as Get the sack and Get the bag.

Ghost, *v.* to haunt a person or place for the purpose of importuning for money or anything else.

Ghoster, *sb.* one who follows another person or hangs about for the purpose of asking for something.

Giants' Graves, *sb.* cromlechs and kistvaens.

Gib, *sb.* a hook on the end of a peculiar pattern of yard-stick.

Gif, *if.* 'I certainly will fight *gif* your honour bids me.'

Giff-gaff, mutual giving and taking. 'Giff-gaff mak's guid freens.'

Gig-ma-gog's Grave, *sb.* a kistvaen between Coleraine and Bushmills, Co. of Antrim.

Gilderoy. 'I wouldn't give it to you if you were as big as *Gilderoy*,' a defiance. G. was a celebrated outlaw.

Gillaroo trout, *sb.* a large lake trout, commonly said to have a gizzard like that of a fowl.

Gillets, *sb.* narrow channels among rocks.

Gilpins, *sb.* the fry of the coal-fish, *Merlangus Carbonarius*.

Ginkin, *sb.* a fish. Harris (1744) says it is "a delicate small fish, spotted and shaped something like a trout. It is called here a *ginkin*, in the rivers of the C. Galway a streamer, in some parts a graveling, and in the C. Kilkenny a gilloge."

Ginling, *v.* catching fish under stones with the hands.

Girn, (1) *sb.* a noose. The noose which is made with a halter and put in a horse's mouth is called a *girn*. 'Pit a *girn* in his mooth.'

(2) *v.* to snare trout, &c., with a noose.

(3) *v.* to cry. 'Stop that *girling*.'

'Girny go gabby the cat's cousin,' said to a child that cries frequently without much cause.

Glaikit, *adj.* thoughtless; giddy.

Glaiks, *sb.* a lever attached to a churn-staff, by use of which the churning is less laborious.

Glam, *sb.* a sudden snatch. 'I made a *glam* at it.'

Glar, Glaur, *sb.* slimy mud.

Glashan, *sb.* the coal fish, *Merlangus carbonarius*. Called also Blockan and Grey Lord.

Gled, *sb.* a kite (bird).

Gleed o' sense, *sb.* a spark or grain of sense.

Glimin', *v.* looking out of the corner of one's eye.

Glipe, *sb.* an uncouth fellow.

Glower, *v.* to stare or look.

Go, or Gang, of water. A go of water is two pails, *i.e.* as much as a person can carry at one time from the well.

Goak, Gouk, *sb.* a cuckoo.

'The bat, the bee, the butterflee, the cuckoo, and the *gowk*,

The heather bleat, the mire snipe, hoo many birds is that?'

Answer Twa. Another form:

'The cuckoo and the *gowk*,

The lavrock and the lark,

The heather bleat, the mire snipe,

How many birds is that?' Three.

Goat. 'It would blow the horns off a *goat*:' said of a great storm.

God speed. 'The back of *God speed*,' any very solitary and unfrequented place.

God's truth, the truth.

Going on a stick, *v.* walking by the help of a stick.

Gold Head, *sb.* the *pochard* or red-headed widgeon. Harris, *Co. Down*, 1744.

Goldspring, Gooldspring, *sb.* a goldfinch.

Golly, *sb.* a ball or block of wood used in the game of 'shinney.' Called also a Nag.

Gomeril, *sb.* a fool.

Gomus, *sb.* a stupid person or blockhead.

Good. 'He's no *good*,' *i.e.* he is of no use or of no account.

Good forder, *sb.* a salutation to a ploughman or labourer, meaning 'May you get on well.'

Good lock, *sb.* a large quantity. 'Ah, that's nuthin'; gi'e us a *good lock*.'

Gooldspring, *sb.* the goldfinch.

Goose seam, *sb.* goose grease.

Goppen, Goapen, *sb.* the full of both hands. 'She gave the poor body a *goppen* o' meal.'

Gorb, *sb.* a greedy person. In Belfast the boys of any one school called the boys of another *gorbs*.

Gorb-eel. Same as [Culloch](#), *q.v.*

Gorgy-mill-tree, *sb.* a willow.

Gorsoon, *sb.* a young lad.

Gospel greedy, fond of going to church.

Goving about, *or* Goving round, *v.* staring about in a stupid way.

Gowk storm. On the N.E. coast of Co. Antrim, "the peasantry look forward with the greatest interest every spring for what they call the *gowk* (cuckoo) *storm*, that takes place about the end of April or the beginning of May, when the note of this bird is heard. This storm, which is from the east, casts on the beach vast quantities of sea-wrack, which is used as manure for their potatoes."
— Thompson's *Nat. Hist. of Ireland*.

Gowl, *v.* to howl; to cry in a howling way.

Gowler, *sb.* a dog, *i.e.* a howler.

Gowpin, *sb.* the painful beating or throbbing in a suppurating finger.

Gra, liking for; affection. 'I had no *gra* for it.'

Graden, *sb.* a coarse kind of oat-meal.

Obsolete.

Graith, *sb.* horse harness.

Granny, *sb.* The *granny* is a small sheaf composed of the last remaining growing stalks of corn on a farm at harvest. The stalks are plaited together, and are cut down by the reapers throwing their reaping-hooks at it from a little distance. It is then carried home in triumph, and the person who has cut it down puts it round the neck of the oldest woman of the farmer's family. It is sometimes hung up against the 'chimney brace,' where it remains till next harvest, when it gives place to the new *granny*. Also called the Churn and the Hare.

Granny gills, *sb.* head vermin.

Granny's needle, *sb.* a hairy caterpillar; a dragon-fly. Same as [Deil's needle](#).

Graul, *sb.* a sea-fish resembling a young salmon. Harris (1744). A half-grown fellow.

Graving bowl, *sb.* a gratuity paid to ship carpenters when they have completed the repair of a vessel, on bringing her out of the graving dock.

Great, *adj.* intimate; confidential. 'As *great* as inkle weavers,' saying.

Greatly failed, *adj.* much impaired in health.

Great shakes, *adj.* much consequence. 'He's no *great shakes*' = he's not of much consequence.

Greeshaw, Grushaw, *sb.* glowing ashes; embers.

Greet, *v.* to weep.

Gregagh, *sb.* a fish, the ballan wrasse. Same as [Bavin](#), *q.v.*

Grew, (1) *sb.* a greyhound. (2) *sb.* a tremor. (3) *v.* to shudder. 'The chile *grewed* at its medicine.'

Grewsome, *adj.* frightful; anything that makes one shudder.

Grey, *sb.* the grey linnet.

Grin (corruption of grain), a small quantity. 'Gi'e us a wee *grin*'o' sthroe.' 'A'll no gi'e ye a taste.'

Gripe, *sb.* a ditch.

Grogan, *sb.* a kind of fairy about two feet high and very strong. He helps the farmers in harvesting, threshing, &c., but takes offence if any recompense be offered him.

Groof, *sb.* the front of the body. 'We found him lyin' on his *groof*.'

Group, *sb.* a drain in a cow-house behind the cows.

Grubs, *sb.* juvenile thieves of the street Arab kind, who run away with the tops or marbles of school-boys.

Grummel, *sb.* a backing of clay put round the outside of the brick lining of a well.

Grummles, *sb.* grounds; sediment.

Grumpy, *adj.* disagreeable in manner.

Grunt, *sb.* a fish, the perch.

Grup, (1) *sb.* a grasp. (2) *v.* to grasp or grip. 'Eels is gy an' ill to *grup*.' (3) *v.* to catch; to overtake. 'She's *grupp*in' on us:' said of one boat gaining on another.

Gudge, *sb.* a short, thick, fat person. 'He's just a *gudge* of a man.'

Guldher, (1) *sb.* a loud, sudden shout, caused by anger or surprise. 'I gave a *guldher* at him, and he ran away.' (2) *v.* to shout loudly.

Gullet hole, *sb.* a deep hole in a sand or mud bank dangerous to bathers.

Gulley, *sb.* a butcher's knife; and, in derision, a butcher's boy.

Gullion hole, *sb.* a muddy hole; a cesspool.

Gullions, *sb.* mud. Same as [Gutters](#).

Gumph, *sb.* a stupid person.

Gumption, *adj.* quickness of understanding; common-sense; tact.

Gun. 'It's like the man's *gun*, that wanted a new lock, stock, and barrel, some repairs, and a ram-rod:' said of anything that is quite worn out.

Gunked, *adj.* taken aback; disappointed. 'Greatly *gunked*,' 'sorely *gunked*,' or 'quarely *gunked*,' are common ways in which this word is used. Same as [Be-gunked](#).

Gunner, *sb.* a workman who repairs fire-arms; a gun-smith.

Gurly, *adj.* surly; cross.

Gut, *sb.* a narrow navigable channel among sand-banks or rocks.

Gutters, *sb.* mud. 'The *gutthers* was dhreepin' aff him,' *i.e.* off a horse.

Guzzle, *v.* to take by the throat; to choke a person.

Gy, or Gai, *adv.* very. 'It's *gy* an' hot the day.'

Gyly *adv.* very well; in good health. 'How are you?' 'Gyly.'

H

Hackit hands, *sb. pl.* hands chapped from exposure to cold.

Hackle berry, *sb.* a growth on a horse's leg. Same as [Angle-berry](#).

Haddin, *sb.* a holding or 'tak' (take) of land.

Haddin, *sb.* the wall in a cottage which faces the door, and in which is the triangular or other shaped 'spy-hole.' Same as [Hollan](#).

Haen, *v.* had. 'I should ha' *haen* them things home in the cart.'

Haffets, *sb.* locks of hair growing at the temples.

Haft, *v.* to plug the teats of milch cows when they are brought to market, so that the udder becomes very full of milk, or to leave them unmilked for the same purpose.

Hag, *v.* to cut or chop; to disfigure or spoil by cutting. 'I *hagged* a wheen o' sticks.'

Haggle, *v.* to wrangle over a bargain.

Hag-yard, *sb.* a stack-yard.

Hail, *sb.* shot. 'Sparrow *hail*' = fine shot. 'The whole charge of *hail* went into his back.'

Hain, *v.* to save; to economise. Also to save or spare oneself. 'Ye *hained* yersel' the day.'

Hair. 'No a *hair* feared,' not a bit afraid.

Hait, anything. 'Deil a *hait*' = nothing at all.

Haiverel, (1) *sb.* a fellow half a fool
(2) *adj.* giddy; foolish.

Half away, *adj.* mad

Half natural, *sb.* a fool.

Half one, Hef yin, *sb.* a half-glass of whiskey.

Half-piece crock, *sb.* the ordinary deep-shaped dairy crock.

Hallion, *sb.* a coarse, idle, worthless fellow.

Hames, Hems, *sb.* the iron or wooden parts of a cart-horse's collar.

Hammer, block, and Bible, a boys' game. Each of the three objects is represented by a boy.

Han'. 'It's doon the hill, an' wi' the han':' said of a thing that is easily done. See [Wi' the han'](#).

Hanch, *sb.* a voracious snap. 'The dog made a *hanch* at me.'

Hand, (1) *sb.* a ham made from the fore-leg of a pig. (2) *sb.* something spoiled, or broken, or dirtied; much the same as [Sore hand](#), *q.v.* 'If you let the chile get the book he'll make a *hand* of it.' (3) To 'take a *hand* at' a person is to make fun of him or mislead him. 'There, don't mind him; he's only takin' a han' at you.'

Hand idle, *adj.* idle. 'They're *hand idle* for want o' their tools.'

Handketcher, *sb.* a handkerchief.

Handle yer feet, make good use of your legs.

Hand ma doon, a term for any article of clothing purchased second-hand or ready-made, from the fact of its being *handed down* by the stall-keeper for the inspection of the intending purchaser. The term is sometimes used in ridicule for any odd-looking garment. 'Whar did ye get that auld *hand ma doon* of a coat?'

Compare *Décroche moi ça*, the slang French term for an old clothes shop.

Hands. When the left palm itches you are going to receive some money, when the right itches you are going to pay money.

Handsaw. 'Your voice is like the sharpening of a *handsaw*,' i.e. very harsh and disagreeable.

Hand's turn, *sb.* any work. 'He hasn't done a *hand's turn* these six months.'

Hand write, *sb.* hand-writing. 'Whose *hand write* is that?'

Hang, *v.* to hang a scythe is to attach it to its 'sned' (handle) for use.

Hanging, *v.* standing. 'Hangin' on my feet all day.'

Hanging gale. On some estates it is customary to allow one gale of rent to lie always in arrear. This is called the *hanging gale*.

Hank, *sb.* a measure of linen yarn. See under [Spangle](#) and [Lea](#).

Han'le, *v.* to hurry; to exert oneself.

Hansel, (1) *sb.* an early meal given to farm-labourers before they commenced work.
(2) *v.* The first purchase made from a dealer *hansels* him, i.e. brings luck.

Hansel Monday, the first Monday of the year.

Han' stav, *sb.* the handle of a flail. See [Flail](#).

Hap, (1) *sb.* a covering, as a cloak or a blanket.
(2) *v.* to cover; to wrap up in muffling or bed-clothes.

Hap aff, a call to a horse to turn to the off, or right, side.

Hape of dacency, much politeness or good manners.

"Boys, A had a *hape o' dacency*,
When A first come among ye."

Hard, (1) *adj.* close-fisted; penurious.

(2) *adj.* quickly; fast. 'Now run *hard*!'

(3) *adj.* strong; as applied to strong drink, whisky, &c.

Hard bowed, *adj.* said of flax when the seed has formed.

Hardies, *sb.* broken stones used as road metal. 'Nappin' *hardies*,' breaking stones.

Hardy, *adj.* frosty. 'It's a *hardy* mornin'."

Hare, The, *sb.* the last handful of growing corn at harvest. Same as [The Granny](#), *q.v.*

Hare scart, *sb.* a hare lip.

Harey, *adj.* cunning; knowing (like a hare?)

Harl, *adj.* a rough, coarse, field labourer.

Harn, *v.* to harden bread on a griddle.

Harnishin, *sb.* harness.

Harp, *sb.* an Irish shilling (temp. Eliza. and Jas. I.) equal only to 9*d.* sterling money (Hill's *Plantation in Ulster*).

Harrow goose, *sb.* a 'large' bird mentioned by Harris, *Hist. Co. Down* (1744).

Hash, *sb.* a lazy, untidy person.

Hasky, (1) *adj.* husky; hoarse. (2) *adj.* harsh: applied to flax, fibre, &c.

Haste. 'The more *haste* the worse speed, as the tailor said to the long thread,' saying.

Hatterel, (1) 'He's all in a *hatterel*,' i.e. his body is all over sores. (2) a great many; a flock. 'A *hatterel* o' weans.'

Haud, *v.* to hold.

Haud awa', go away.

Haughle, *v.* to walk badly; to hobble.

Have no mind, to forget. 'I *had no mind* of it' — I forgot it. 'Have *you mind* of that, Sam?'

Hawthery, Huthery, *adj.* untidy; tossed.

Hay-bird, *sb.* the willow wren, so called from its using hay largely in building its nest.

Hazelly, *adj.* 'Light *hazelly* land,' *i.e.* light, poor soil.

Hazerded *adj.* half dried, as linen, &c., spread on grass. 'Them clothes are not dry at all; they're only *hazerded*.'

Head, (1) *sb.* used for mouth. 'Not a word out of your *head*.' 'Every tooth in my *head* was aching.' 'The doctor said he was never to have the milk away from his *head*.' This of a person who required constant nourishment. (2) 'He was like to ate the *head* off me,' *i.e.* he was very angry with me. (3) 'Hould up your *head*, there's money bid for you:' said as an encouragement to a bashful person. (4) 'Over the *head* of,' on account of. 'I got dismissed over the *head* of a letter the master got.' (5) 'To stand over the *head* of,' to warrant the quality or quantity of anything.

Head beetler, the foreman beetler in a beetling mill, and hence any foreman or head man over workpeople.

Head fall. "An infant at its birth is generally forced by the midwife to swallow spirits, and is immediately afterwards suspended by the upper jaw with her fore-finger; this last operation is performed for the purpose of preventing a disease called *head-fall*. Many children die when one or two days old of the *trismus nascentium*, or 'jaw-fall,' a spasmodic disease particular to tropical climates; here, however, it is probably a dislocation caused by the above-mentioned barbarous practice." — Mason's *Parochial*

Survey, Parish of Culdaff, Co. of Donegal, 1816.

Heaghmost, *adj.* highest.

Hear tell, *v.* to hear. 'Did ever ye *hear tell* o' the like?'

Heart. 'I could find in my *heart* to,' &c., *i.e.* I have the heart to, &c. 'I couldn't find in my *heart* to leave her.'

Heart fever. 'Measuring for the *heart fever*,' a country charm. A tape is passed round the chest.

Heart lazy, *adj.* very lazy.

Heart's disease, *sb.* heart disease.

Heart sick, *adj.* wearied; disgusted. 'I'm *heart sick* of your goin's on.'

Heartsome, *adj.* cheerful; lively.

Heartsomeness, *sb.* cheerfulness.

Hear your ears, to hear yourself speak. 'There was sich a tar'ble noise A couldn't *hear ma ears*.'

Heather bleat, *sb.* the common snipe.

Heatherling, *sb.* the twite or mountain linnet. Called also Heather Grey.

Heavy. 'He's very *heavy* on the strawberries,' *i.e.* he eats a great many. A heavy drinker.

Heavy-footed, *adj.* pregnant.

Hech, faith. 'Hech man, but ye're dreigh o' drawin',' *i.e.* faith man, but you have been slow in coming to call. Same as [Heth](#).

Heddle, *sb.* part of a loom.

Heeler, *sb.* a sharp, prying, managng woman.

Heel in, *v.* to plant young trees in a temporary way, to keep them safe till it is convenient to

plant them permanently. They are placed in a slanting position.

Heal of a loaf, the last bit of a loaf.

Heel of the hand, the part of the hand nearest the wrist.

Heels foremost, dead. 'Never! till A'm taken *heels foremost*.'

Heir, *v.* To heir a person is to inherit his property.

Heir skip, *sb.* inheritance. 'He got it by *heir skip*.'

Hen. 'Like a *hen* on a hot griddle,' a comparison for a very restless person.

Hen fish, *sb.* the poor or power cod, *Morrhua minuta*.

Hern cran, Hern crane, *sb.* the heron.

Herring hog, *sb.* the bottle-nosed whale.

Het, *v.* heated. 'He over *het* himself.'

Heth, faith. 'Heth no.' 'Heth aye.' 'Heth an' soul, but you won't.' Same as [Feth](#).

Heugh, *sb.* a rocky height. 'The Gobbin *Heughs*,' precipitous rocks on the coast at the east of the Co. of Antrim.

Higglety-pigglety, in confusion.

Hi-how, *sb.* the hedge parsley, *Anthriscus sylvestris*. Of the parts of the stem between the joints children make 'pluffers' to 'pluff' hawstones through. Children also make 'scouts,' *i.e.* squirts, of the stem of this plant. An instrument for producing a noise is also made. Could this sound have originated the curious name? A correspondent says: "When we were wee fellows we used to make horns of the *hi-how*." Called also Da-ho. Compare the Sc. *hech-how*.

Hinch, (1) *sb.* the thigh. 'The corn was that short a Jinny Wran might ha' sat on her *hitches*, an' picked the top pickle off.'
(2) *v.* to throw stones by bringing the hand across the thigh.

Hingin' lock, *sb.* a padlock.

Hingit, *adj.* drooping; applied to flowers or plants.

Hintin, Hint, *sb.* the furrow in a ploughed field between the ridges.

Hippo, *sb.* ipecacuanha.

Hip-roofed house, a house the roof of which has no gables.

Hirple, *v.* to walk lame.

Hissel, himself.

Hitch, *v.* to run.

Hives, *sb.* red, itchy, raised spots on the skin.

Hize, Hoise, *v.* to hoist.

Hoag, Hogo, *sb.* a strong smell.

Hock, Hawk, Hough, *v.* to throw stones under the thigh.

Hoges. 'The *hoges*,' a boys' game played with 'peeries' (peg-tops). The victor is entitled to give a certain number of blows with the spike of his peerie to the wood part of his opponent's.

Hoggat, Hoggart, *sb.* a dry measure consisting of ten bushels. (I believe obsolete.)

Hoke, *v.* to hollow-out anything, such as a toy boat. A dog *hokes* out the earth from a rabbit hole.

Hokey Oh! an exclamation.

Hole and taw, a game of marbles.

Holed, *v.* worn into holes, or suddenly pierced.

Hollan, *sb.* a wall in a cottage. Same as [Haddin](#).
See under [Spy-hole](#).

Holland hawk, *sb.* This name is applied to two birds — the great northern diver and the red-throated diver. Same as [Allan hawk](#).

Holy show, *sb.* a ridiculous or absurd exhibition of oneself. 'He made a *holy show* of himself.'

Honey, a term of endearment.

Hooden, *sb.* the hinge or joint of a flail. Called also the Mid-kipple.

Hooden sheaves, Hudden shaves, *sb.* the sheaves which are placed on the top of a 'stook' of corn to turn off the rain. Also called Head sheaves.

Hook, Hyeuk, *sb.* a reaping-hook.

Horn, (1) *v.* to gore. (2) 'To have got the *horn* in him,' to be slightly tipsy. (3) *v.* to saw the horns off cattle.

Horned, *adj.* Applied to cattle which have had their horns sawed off. Same as [Skulled](#) or Polled.

Horn-eel, *sb.* the garfish, *Belone vulgaris*. Called Mackerel scout at Strangford Lough, and Spearling at Portrush.

Horney, *sb.* a constable.

Horn ouzel, *sb.* a bird mentioned by Harris (1744) as found in the Co. of Down.

Horse elf stone, *sb.* a petrified sea urchin.

Horse pipes, *sb.* the great horse-tail, *Equisetum maximum*.

Host, *sb.* a large number. 'I've a whole *host* of things to do.'

Hot. 'You were *hot* in the house:' said to persons who come out in wet or inclement days without apparent reason.

Hough, (1) 'It's the last *hough* in the pot,' *i.e.* the last of anything, particularly anything to eat. (2) *v.* to hamstring.

Houghel, *sb.* a person who walks in an awkward, loose, clumsy way. 'He's a sore *houghel* of a craithur.'

Houldin', *sb.* something held, such as a farm.

Hoults, holds. 'When I first seen them they were in *hoults*,' *i.e.* they were grappling with each other.

Houl' yer han', stop work for a moment.

Houl' yer loof, *i.e.* hold out your hand: an expression used in bargaining at markets.

Houl' yer tongue, be silent.

Houl' yer whisht, be silent.

Hoved up, swollen; inflated.

Hovel, *sb.* the stand on which a corn rick is built.

Hovel-cap, *sb.* the broad stone, or piece of iron, laid on the top of each pillar of a 'hovel' to prevent rats, &c., from climbing up to the grain.

How-an'-divir, however.

'How are you comin' on?' how do you do?

How do you come on? how do you do?

How do you get your health? a common salutation, meaning how do you do?

Howziver, however.

Hulge, any large unshapely mass. 'A *hulge* of a horse,' a loose-limbed horse. Same as 'a wallop of a horse'.

Hum, *sb.* a morsel of food masticated by a nurse, and then put into an infant's mouth.

Hummin', *v.* feeding a child with 'hums.'

Humplock, *sb.* a shapeless heap; applied to a badly-built hayrick.

Hungry. 'A *hungry* eye sees far,' saying.

Hungry grass, *sb.* some plant. When a person treads on it in the fields he is seized with an intolerable hunger and weakness. A crop of *hungry grass* is said to spring up if persons who have dined in the fields do not throw some of the fragments away for the fairies.

Hungry heart, *sb.* an empty, craving stomach.

Hungry land, poor, sandy soil.

Hunker, *v.* to crouch on the ground with the heels under the hams.

Hunkers. 'To sit on one's *hunkers*,' is the same as 'to hunker.'

Huntagowk, *sb.* a person sent on a fool's errand.

Hunter, *sb.* A cat that is a good mouser is a *hunter*. 'Her mother was a right *hunter*,' said of a kitten.

Hup, a call to a horse to go on; a call to a horse to go to the right or off side.

Hup! hup! a car-driver's cry to get out of the way.

Hurlbassey, *sb.* a star which when it is seen near the moon foretells stormy weather.
— McSkimin's *Hist. Carrickfergus*.

Hurly, (1) *sb.* a game; hockey. Same as [Shinney](#) or [Common](#). (2) *sb.* a long, low cart with two wheels.

Hurly burly, *sb.* a boys' game. In it the following rhyme is used:

'Hurly-burly, trumpy trace;

The cow stands in the market-place;

Some goes far, and some goes near,

Where shall this poor sinner steer?'

Hurries, The, *sb.* a term for the Irish Rebellion of 1798. Called also the Turn-out.

Hurrish, Thurry, a call to pigs.

Hurry, (1) *sb.* a row or fight; a quarrel. (2) 'Take your *hurry*,' or 'Take yer *hurry* in yer han', take your time.

Hursthle, Hurstling, the sound of rough breathing caused by mucus in the air passages.

Hush, to drive a flock of fowl, saying at the same time, '*Hush, hush*.' Sometimes Whush, or Wheeshoo.

Hut, tut! an exclamation of impatience.

Hy spy, *sb.* a boys' game.

I

I, *adv.* yes.

I-dent, *adj.* diligent; hard-working; attentive.

Idleset, *sb.* off work; idle time. 'The horse was kept *idleset*.' 'There wasn't much *idleset* since you went away.'

If I know, I don't know. 'Deed if I *know* when he's commin.'

Ignorant, *adj.* wanting in manners.

Il-

convainient, Onconvainient, *adj.* inconvenient.

Ill, *adj.* difficult. 'That stuff's *ill* to grind.'

Ill done, wrong. 'It was very *ill done* of you to go there.'

Ill-faured, *adj.* ill-favoured; ugly.

Ill-like, *adj.* ugly.

Ill put on, badly or carelessly dressed: said of a person.

Ill to learn, difficult to teach. 'I wasn't *ill to learn* when I was young.'

Ill willie, Ill wullie, *adj.* disobliging; not willing to share anything with neighbours.

Immaydiantly, *adv.* immediately.

Impedent, *adj.* impudent.

Impediment, *sb.* 'There was a man there who had an *impediment*; he had lost more than the half of his hand.'

I'm sure! indeed! really!

Income, *sb.* a running sore. 'What makes you lame?' 'A tuk' it first wi' an *income* in ma knee.'

In coorse, of course.

Indeed-an'-doubles, a strong way of saying indeed.

India buck, *sb.* meal or porridge made from Indian corn (maize).

Indue, *adv.* due. 'He was *indue* me a year's wages.'

Industrious, *sb.* an industrious person. 'He was a good *industrious*.'

Infair, *sb.* the bringing home of a bride.

Innocent, *sb.* a simpleton.

Inns, *sb.* inn. 'I put up at the head *inns*.' 'He went to the horse show, and stayed at the *inns*.'

Innundher, *adv.* underneath. Same as [Annundher](#).

In or over, near about any fixed date or any exact quantity.

Ins and outs. 'The *ins and outs*' of anything, *i.e.* all that can be known about a thing.

Insense, *v.* to explain. 'Come here, and I'll *insense* you into it.'

Inshave, *sb.* a cooper's tool, like a drawing knife, but curved.

In the inside of an hour, within an hour.

Intill, *prep.* into.

It's lone, alone. 'Can the chile go *it's lone*?'

It took me all my time, *i.e.* I found it very difficult to do; it kept me very busy to do it.

Ivory, *sb.* ivy.

J

J. This letter is sometimes called *jaw*.

Jabble, *sb.* a sea with small broken waves.

Jack in the box, *sb.* the wild arum.

Jacks, (1) *sb.* parts of a loom. (2) *sb.* a children's game played with five white pebbles, called 'Jack stones.'

Jag, (1) *sb.* a prick. (2) *v.* to prick. 'A wee bit o' spruce fir *jagged* me in the sight o the eye.'

Jap, Jaup, *v.* to splash water.

Japs, *sb.* splashes or sparks of water or mud.

Jaw, (1) *v.* to talk in an offensive way; to give saucy answers. (2) *sb.* saucy talk. Same as [Back talk](#).

Jaw tub, Jaw box, *sb.* a scullery sink.

Jay, *sb.* the missel thrush is called the *jay* here. The jay does not occur.

Jeesey, *adj.* juicy.

Jennerwerry, January.

Jig, (1) *v.* to dandle a baby.
(2) *v.* To *jig* for herrings is to catch herrings by means of an apparatus composed of a number of wires with fish-hooks attached. The *jig* is lowered

into the sea where the fish are numerous, and is *jigged* up and down. Any herrings that come in contact with the hooks are caught and pulled into the boat.

Jigger, *sb.* a sail that projects over the stern of a boat, set on a short mast called the 'jigger mast.'

Jing-bang, *sb.* a number of people. 'I don't care a pin about the whole *jing-bang* of them.'

Jingle, *sb.* gravel.

Jinnys. 'A pair of *jinnys*,' a pair of callipers.

Jirging, *sb.* creaking, as shoes.

Job of work, anything to do. 'I hav'n't had a *job of work* this month.'

Jog, *sb.* a push or nudge.

Joggle, *v.* to rock; to be unsteady.

Joggles, *sb.* the projecting pieces of wood left at the ends of a wooden cistern, or at the end of a window-sash.

Johnny Nod. '*Johnny Nod* is creeping up your back:' said to children who are very sleepy, but who don't wish to go to bed.

Joiant, *sb.* a giant.

Joice, *sb.* a joist.

Join, (1) *sb.* a number of farmers, generally from eight to twelve, who join together for the purpose of making

cheese. “Each *join* has vats, tubs, pans, and the like implements, which are kept up at the expence of the whole.”

— *Hist. Carrickfergus*, 1823. Also a number of persons who join together for the purpose of purchasing drink for a carouse. (2) *v.* to commence work.

Jotther, *sb.* a small quantity or dash of a liquid, *i.e.* ‘a *jotther* o’ whisky.’

Joult, Jolt, *sb.* a lump. ‘A *joult* of meat.’

Juke, *v.* to stoop the head suddenly, so as to avoid a blow; to turn off quickly when running away; to hide round a corner. Same as [Duke](#).

Jukery, *sb.* roguery.

Juke the beetle, *sb.* a lump in stirabout, or in ‘champ.’

Jump, *v.* to make a hole in stone for blasting purposes with a Jumper (*q.v.*). The steel bar is *jumped* up and down, or is struck with a hammer, till the hole has been sunk the required depth.

Jumper, (1) *sb.* a kind of maggot in meat. (2) *sb.* a bar of steel or iron used at a quarry for boring a hole in the rock to receive a charge of powder for blasting.

Jump jack, *sb.* the breast-bone of a goose made into a child’s toy, with cobbler’s wax, a string, and a stick.

Jundy, (1) *sb.* a push. (2) *v.* to jostle; to gush.

Jurr, *sb.* a cart-load of flax offered for sale, which it is suspected is not the genuine production of the farmer, but has been manipulated by some unscrupulous dealer, is called a *jurr*, or a *jurred* load.

Jute of tea, *sb.* a small quantity of tea.

K

Kail runt, *sb.* a cabbage stalk.

Kailyee, *sb.* a friendly evening visit.

Kaimin’ kaim, *sb.* an ivory or ‘fine-tooth’ comb.

Kaivel, Kevel, *v.* to toss the head, as a horse does. Also applied to the same kind of gesture in a person. ‘Watch the way yon girl *kaivels* her heed.’

Kam, *sb.* a small iron pan used for holding the melted grease from which rushlights were made. A mould for casting several small bullets at once, or for casting small articles in.

Kash, *sb.* a bog road, or causeway of uncut turf.

Keckle, *sb.* a smothered laugh.

Keddis, *sb.* a small quantity of silk, or woollen material, or flax, stuffed into an ink-bottle, and then saturated with ink. The pen is supplied by coming in contact with the *keddis*, and if the bottle is overset the ink does not spill.

Keed, *sb.* cud. ‘Chow the *keed*.’

Keek, *v.* to peep.

Keel, *sb.* ruddle, a red earthy substance.

Keel men, *sb.* the term for a class of illiterate buyers, who used to attend the country linen markets. When one of them purchased a web of brown hand-loom linen, he marked with a piece of 'keel,' on the outside lap, some obscure characters, which were to the *keel man* a record of the cost price, &c.

Keen, (1) *adj.* anxious; eager. 'She's *keen* to be married.' (2) *sb.* a cry of lamentation over a corpse. (3) *v.* to wail or cry over a corpse. 'When I heard the ban-shee it was just like an old woman *keenying*.'

Keenk, *v.* to cough; to laugh in a convulsive way.

Keep company, *v.* to be lovers.

Keeshion, *sb.* the hedge parsley.

Keeve, *sb.* a large tub used in bleach works, &c.

Kell, *sb.* the *debris* of the skin.

Kelp, *sb.* the ash of burnt seaweed, of value for the alkali and iodine contained in it.

Kemp-stone, *sb.* a large cromlech near Dundonald, Co. of Down.

Ken, *v.* to know.

Kennel, *v.* to kindle.

Kenspeckled, *adj.* remarkable looking; easily recognised.

Keos, *sb.* funny tricks; jokes; nonsense.

Keous, *sb.* the rootlets of the potato plant.

Kep, *v.* to catch; to stop; to head or turn back any animal.

Kerries, *sb.* fleecy driving clouds. See [Carry of the sky](#).

Kettle-bellied, *adj.* big bellied.

Kib, *sb.* a kind of spade used in stony or hilly ground where a plough cannot work. It is very narrow and thick.

Kilmaddy, *sb.* the fishing frog, *Lophius piscatorius*.

Kilt, *v.* badly hurt. 'The wean's *kilt*.'

Kimlin, *sb.* a small wooden vessel, used for dressing butter in.

Kindlin', *sb.* fuel.

King of the mullet, a fish, the basse, *Labrax Lupus*. Called also White Mullet.

Kink, *sb.* a twist in a rope or chain.

Kink, Keenk, *sb.* a paroxysm of coughing or of laughter.

Kipple, *sb.* the coupling of the frame of a roof.

Kipple butt, *sb.* that part of the principal of a roof which rests on the wall.

Kisses, *sb.* small sweetmeats rolled up along with mottoes in a piece of coloured paper.

Kist, *sb.* a chest.

Kitchen, (1) *sb.* anything eaten as a relish with other food. 'Butter to butter's no *kitchen*,' saying. (2) *v.* to save or husband anything carefully.

Kitlin, *sb.* a kitten.

Kittagh handed, left-handed. Colla Macdonnell (*circa* 1600) is known as Coll Kittagh.

Kittle, *v.* to bring forth kittens; to bring forth young alive. 'Some fishes spawn and others *kittle*.'

Kittling, *adj.* A hare with young is called a '*kittling* hare.'

Knab, *v.* to snatch up; to steal.

Knap, *v.* to strike repeated blows, as with a hammer.

Knapsack breed, children born in the army.

Knockin' trough, *sb.* a large mortar made of stone, formerly used for pounding barley in. It held about twenty quarts. The 'mell' used was of wood.

Knowd, Nowd, *sb.* the grey gurnard, *Trigla gurnardus*.

Knowe, *sb.* a knoll; a small hill.

Knowin', *sb.* a knowing; just what could be perceived. 'We took a wee *knowin'* o' whisky.'

Knowledgible, *adj.* knowing. "Pigs is a dale *knowledgible* nor people think."
— Ollminick.

Knur, *sb.* a dwarf; anything small or dwarfish; any animal that has become stunted in his growth.

Krittity, *adj.* of uncertain temper; skittish; cross; unreliable.

Kye, *sb.* cows.

L

Lab, *sb.* a game of marbles.

Labour, *v.* 'To *labour* a field,' to dig it or cultivate it.

Lachter, *sb.* a brood of chickens, &c.; a quantity.

Lacken day, *sb.* a wet day.

Lag, lag, Leg, leg, the call to geese.

Laimeter, Lamiter, *sb.* a lame person.

Lair, *sb.* A man or horse is said to lair when he sinks in mud or snow, and cannot extricate himself.

Laivins, *sb.* the refuse.

Lamed to the ground. 'I got a stab of a bayonet in the groin, which has *lamed me to the ground*.'

Lament'able, *adj.* unpleasant; disagreeable. 'It's a most *lament'-able* wet day.' 'The smell of the fish was most *lament'able*.'

Lammas floods, *sb.* heavy rains which are expected about the first of August.

Land, *sb.* cultivated land or pasture, as opposed to a road. 'Come on the *land*,' *i.e.* come off the road into the fields.

Landed, *v.* arrived; placed. 'I *landed* off the car at six o'clock.' 'I gave him won [sic] skite, an' *landed* him into the middle of a whin-bush.'

Langle, (1) *sb.* A 'sheep's *langle*' is a short piece of any kind of rope, with a slip knot at each end. The loops are passed over the fore and hind leg of a sheep. The animal is thus *langled*, and cannot go over fences. Hence the saying, 'He goes out of the *langle*,' applied to a person who goes on the spree occasionally. (2) *v.* to tie the hind

foot and the fore foot of an animal together, to prevent it straying far.

Lap, *or* Lapcock, *sb.* a small roll of grass cut for hay. Same as a Cole of hay.

Lap, *v.* to roll up grass. ‘They *lap* it from the swathe.’

Lapped up, wrapped up.

Lapsther, *sb.* a lobster.

Lark heeled, *sb.* having long heels: a term of derision.

Lash, (1) *sb.* a large quantity. ‘The master bought a *lash* o’ things from them.’ (2) *v.* to throw anything down violently.

Lashins, *sb.* plenty. ‘*Lashins* and lavins,’ more than plenty.

Lash wheat, *v.* to beat the grains of wheat out of the ears.

Last day. ‘I wouldn’t have lifted it, not if it had lay till the *last day* in the afternoon,’ *i.e.* I would never have taken it.

Latter end, *sb.* the end. ‘The *latter end* of the week.’

Laugh, ‘*Laugh* with the wrong side of your mouth’ = to cry.

Laughin’ sport, *sb.* sport; fun. ‘You’ll find it no *laughin’ sport*,’ *i.e.* it will turn out more serious than you expect.

Lave, (1) *sb.* the remainder; the rest. ‘Ye may have the *lave* o’t.’ (2) *v.* to lift of

throw water out of a pool by means of anything, such as a bucket or scoop.

Laverock, *sb.* a lark; also a hare.

Law, *v.* ‘To take the *law*’ of a person is to go to law with him.

Laws. ‘By the *laws*,’ a mild oath.

Lay a finger on, to touch, in the way of hurting or harming.

Lay down yer bone, *v.* to work hard or earnestly.

Lay out, *v.* to arrange; to plan. ‘I *laid myself out* to do it.’

Lazy led [sic], *sb.* a broad ridge of potatoes.

Lea, *sb.* a measure of linen yarn. Same as [Cut](#). The ‘*lea*’ or ‘cut’ contains 300 yards, a ‘hank’ contains 12 ‘cuts,’ and a ‘bundle’ of yarn 200 ‘cuts.’

Leagh, *v.* low.

Leagh the brae, at the foot of the hill.

Leal, *adj.* loyal; true; faithful.

Leap the bullock, a boys’ game. Same as Leap-frog.

Leasing, *sb.* a twisted thread of cotton or flax used for tying the ‘cuts’ of linen yarn.

Leasing, *v.* putting in order or disentangling anything, such as thread, that has been tossed or tangled.

Leather-winged bat, a bat.

Leave over! *v.* stop! desist!

Lees. 'I hav'n't got the *lees* of you,' *i.e.* I don't comprehend you.

Lemon sole, *sb.* the lemon dab, *Platena microcephala*.

Lend, *sb.* a loan. 'Give me the *lend* of it.'

Lerk, Lurk, *sb.* a wrinkle or fold. 'The child's that fat I can't get dryin' all his *lerks*.'

Lerked, *adj.* wrinkled. 'The uppers of your boots is all *lerked*.'

Let, *v.* to hinder; to interfere with. A boy's term in ball-playing, &c. 'Don't *let* the game.'

Let alone, besides. 'I fell in and got hurt, *let alone* bein' all wet.'

Let on, to show knowledge of a thing. 'I never *let on* I seen him.' 'Don't *let on*,' *i.e.* don't tell.

Libel, *sb.* a label.

Libbock, *sb.* a small, loose piece of something.

Lick, (1) *sb.* a blow. (2) *v.* to beat.

Licking, *sb.* a beating.

Lieve, lief.

Lift, (1) *sb.* the bend in the shaft or blade of a spade. 'I would like a spade with more *lift*,' *i.e.* with the shaft more bent. (2) *v.* to collect, as tickets, subscriptions, &c. (3) *v.* 'Lift it and lay it

like the lugs of a laverock:' applied when persons make frequent changes, such as moving things about from one place to another. (4) 'Come here to I *lift* you:' said in derision or in fun to a person who has fallen down. (5) *v.* to start a funeral. 'What time do they *lift*?'

Lift yer han', *v.* to strike. 'Wud ye *lift* yer *han*' to a woman?'

Lig, *v.* to lie: a boy's term in playing marbles. 'Let him *lig*,' *i.e.* let his marble lie.

Light, *adj.* 'Old *light*,' 'new *light*,' the terms for two sects of Presbyterians. The former subscribe the Westminster Confession, the latter are principally Unitarians.

Light.

'*Light*, *light*, low,

The butterfly low.'

Sung by children who are chasing butterflies.

Like. 'What *like* is he?' *i.e.* what is he like?

Like is applied to words thus: 'I'm all tremblin' *like*.' 'He was all frightened *like*.' 'He seems careless *like*.' 'Summer *like*.'

Like I don't know what, a vague but common comparison.

Lilt, *v.* to sing or hum an air.

Limber, *adj.* flexible; light; frail.

Limner, *sb.* a portrait painter: hence sometimes applied to a photographer.

Limpy coley, *sb.* a boys' game.

Line, (1) *sb.* dressed flax. (2) *sb.* a road. The new roads are so called.

Linen lease, *sb.* a lease granted under the provisions of the 'Linen Act.' It was for lives, renewable, and provided for the keeping of a certain number of looms on the farm.

Lines, (1) When a dispensary doctor is engaged making calls in his district he is said to be out on *lines*, *i.e.* when he has received a *line* or order. (2) *sb.* a discharge given to a worker or servant.

Line yarn, *sb.* yarn made from flax that has been dressed and sorted, so that the fibres are long and run in one direction.

Ling, *sb.* Heather, *Erica cinerea*, is especially called *ling*.

Linge, *v.* to beat; to chastise; to lunge.

Linging, *sb.* a beating.

Lingo (*pl.* Lingoies), *sb.* a long, thin weight of wire used in Jacquard looms.

Lint, *sb.* flax.

Lint-hole, *sb.* a pit or dam for steeping flax.

Lint-white, *sb.* a linnet.

Lint-white, *adj.* very white.

Linty, *sb.* a linnet.

Lip, *sb.* 'Give us none of your *lip*,' *i.e.* impudent talk. Same as [Jaw](#).

Lippen, *v.* to trust; to depend on. 'I wouldn't *lippen* her to carry it.'

Lisk, *sb.* the groin.

Liths, *sb.* the layers of a slaty rock; the layers of an onion; the divisions of an orange.

Lithy, *adj.* flaky; in layers.

Loaden, *v.* to load. 'I was told to *loaden* up with flax.'

Loadened, *adj.* loaded.

Load of coul', a heavy cold Same as [Morth o' coul](#).

Loaning, *sb.* a country lane.

Lock, *sb.* a quantity. 'A big *lock*.' 'A wee *lock*.'

Lockjaw, *v.* to take lockjaw. 'He *lockjawed*.'

Lock spit, *v.* to mark off the boundaries of land by cutting a slight furrow.

Lodged, *adj.* Growing corn that has been laid by the wind and rain is said to be *lodged*.

Loghter, Lughter, *sb.* a handful of growing corn, or crop of any kind cut with a reaping-hook.

Loke smell, *sb.* a nasty, sickening smell.

Long. 'The *long* eleventh of June,' a saying.

Long last, the very last. 'Well, at *long last* he did it.'

Long line, *sb.* a fishing line with several hundred hooks. Also called a Bulter.

Longsome, *adj.* tedious; slow.

Looby, *sb.* a great, loose, indolent fellow.

Loof, *sb.* the open hand. 'They're scuddin' *loofs* an' buyin',' i.e. they are striking hands over their bargains.

Look, *v.* to search. 'Away an' *look* the child's head.'

Loose, *adj.* unoccupied. 'I want to see the mistress when she's *loose*.'

Loot your broos, to look sulky.

Loss, *v.* to lose.

Lossin' (i.e. losing), *v.* going to the bad. 'Them childre's *lossin'* for the want o' somebuddy t' see after them.'

Lost, *adj.* cold; wet; perished. 'Come in, chile, out o' the cowl'; yer *lost*. 'Och, ye craythur, ye'll be *lost* if ye go out the day.'

Loughry men, a race of small hairy people living in the woods. It is said that 'they would get your gold.' They are very strong.

Louin, *adj.* hot. 'My ears are *louin*.'

Loun, *sb.* a boy; a low, idle fellow.

Loup, *v.* to jump.

Louse. 'They wad skin a *louse*:' said of very grasping people.

Low, *sb.* a flame.

Low come off, *sb.* a low expression; an offensive remark. 'They toul' me to ate ma wee dog, an' A sayd to them, it's a *low come off* in ya to say the like o' that.'

Lown day, a calm day.

'Lown yer crack,' speak lower.

Lowze, *v.* to loosen.

Lozenger, *sb.* a lozenge.

Luck. 'It was more by good *luck* than good guiding,' saying.

Lucky, *adj.* full; something over in count or measure.

Lucky half, rather more than half.

Lucky stones, *sb.* small pebbles of hard, white limestone, which have been perforated by a sea-worm. They are found on the beach, and when the perforations extend in such a way that a string could be passed through the stone, and it could thus be suspended round the neck, it is called a *lucky stone*.

Lue warm, luke warm.

Lug, (1) *sb.* the lob-worm, *Arenicola piscatorum*, a large sea-worm used for bait. (2) *sb.* the ear; the ear at the side of a can or bucket.

Luggie, *sb.* a boys' game. In this game the boys lead each other about by the 'lugs,' *i.e.* ears, hence the name.

Lump, (1) *sb.* anything big. 'A *lump* of a girl.' (2) *sb.* a quantity. 'A *lump* of people.'

Lump it. 'If you don't like it you can *lump it*,' *i.e.* you must put up with it.

Luppen shinnen, *sb.* a started sinew.

Lurgan, Lurg, Lurk, *sb.* a whitish, very active sea-worm used for bait.

Lusty, *adj.* healthy looking.

Lying, *adj.* sick. 'He's *lying* these two months.'

Lying heads and thraws, lying in different directions.

Lythe, (1) *sb.* a fish, the pollack, *Merlangus pollachius*. (2) *v.* to thicken broth with flour or meal.

Lything, (1) *sb.* flour or meal put into broth to thicken it. (2) *v.* fishing for *Lythe*.

M

Machine, *sb.* any kind of conveyance, such as a carriage, car, &c.

Mackerel-cock, *sb.* a sea bird, the Manx shearwater, *Puffinus anglorum*.

Mackerel-scout, *sb.* the gar fish. Same as [Horn-eel](#).

Mad, *adj.* angry.

Mad angry, very angry; raging.

Magnify, *v.* to signify. 'That hurt won't *magnify*.'

Mailie, Mailie, a call to a pet sheep.

Mails, *sb. pl.* small perforated scales made of copper or other metal, used in Jacquard weaving.

Maist feck, *sb.* the greater part.

Make, *v.* to attempt; to offer. 'He *made* to strike me.'

Make moan, *v.* to pity. 'When you've tooth ache they *make* no *moan* for you.'

Make off, *v.* to run away.

Make up, *v.* to accost a person with a view of making acquaintance. To be attentive to, or to make love to a person.

Man. 'You'll be a *man* before your mother,' said to comfort a little boy in trouble.

Man alive! an impatient mode of address.

Man-big, *adj.* full grown; the size of a man.

Mankeeper, Mancreeper, *sb.* a water newt, *Lissotriton punctatus*. It is said

that *mankeepers* will creep down the throat of a person who falls asleep near any water where they are.

Manner, *v.* to prepare. 'It's hard to *manner* that ground.' 'The land will be well *mannered* by the frost.' Flax is said to be well-*mannered*, or the reverse, according to its having been carefully treated, or the reverse, in the various processes of preparation. Flax is passed through rollers to *manner* it for the scutchers.

Man or mortal, any one. 'Now don't tell this to *man or mortal*.'

Mansworn, *adj.* perjured.

Manx puffin, *sb.* the Manx shearwater, *Puffinus anglorum* (Harris, 1744).

Many's the time, many a time.

Map, *sb.* a mop.

March, (1) *sb.* a boundary of land.
(2) *v.* to border on; to be continuous to. 'This is where my land *marches* with his.'

March dike, *sb.* the dike (fence) between adjoining farms or townlands.

Margy more, *sb.* the big market, *i.e.* the market before Christmas.

Marksman, *sb.* a man who cannot write his name, and has therefore to make his mark.

Mark the ground, put foot to the ground. 'He could hardly *mark the*

ground:' said of a horse that was very lame.

Marred, *v.* hindered; interfered with.

Married upon, Married on, *v.* married to. 'She was *married upon* a man they call McKee.'

Marrow, *v.* to lend men or horses for labour to a neighbour, and to receive a similar loan in return when needed. Same as [To neighbour](#).

Marvel, *sb.* a marble.

Masheroon, *sb.* a mushroom.

Mashy-corns, Mash-corns, *sb.* roots of 'silver-weed' (*Potentilla anserina*). The root is roasted and eaten. It tastes much like a parsnip ('Tate's *Flora Belfastiensis*).

Mass. 'If ye missed *mass* ye hut the gatherin',' *i.e.* you nearly did something.

Master, sir; a term of address. 'Are you wanting any bog-wood the day, *master?*'

Mate, *sb.* meat; *i.e.* food of any kind. 'The horse dos'nt [sic] take his *mate* now at all.'

Material, *adj.* good; excellent. 'A *material* cow.'

Maug, *v.* to walk away. 'Maug off with you.'

Maunder, *v.* to talk in a wandering way.

Maunna, Maunnae, *v.* must not.

Mavis (*pron.* maivis), *sb.* a thrush. ‘You can sing like a *mavis*,’ a saying, generally used satirically.

May be that! Oh! indeed!

May flower, *sb.* the marsh marigold, *Caltha palustris*.

May I never stir, an appeal, used to give force to any statement.

May jack, *sb.* the whimbrel. It is erroneously believed to be the young of the curlew.

May shell, *sb.* the bone of a cuttle fish, *Sepia officinalis*.

Mays. ‘Between the two *Mays*,’ between the 1st and 12th of May.

Meal ark, *sb.* a large chest or bin for holding a store of meal.

Meal’s meat, *sb.* a meal; the food taken at one meal.

Mealy-crushy, *sb.* oatmeal, fried in dripping. Same as [Durgan](#).

Mealy-mouthed, *adj.* shy; backward in asking; not speaking out plainly when something disagreeable has to be said.

Mean. ‘As *mean* as get out,’ very mean.

Means. ‘Not by no manner of *means*,’ *i.e.* by no means.

Meat and Mense, food, and manners or politeness. “Ye shud still ax a frien’ t’ take a bit o’ whativver’s goin’, if he diz, why A wish him his health, an’ much

good may it do him; if not ye hae yer *meat* and *mense* both.”

— Ollminick.

Meckin’. ‘*Meckin*’ a chimley o’ yer mooth,’ smoking.

Meddle, *v.* to hurt or annoy. ‘The dog won’t *meddle* you.’

Meg, *sb.* a boy’s term for a bad old ‘peerie,’ *i.e.* peg-top.

Meg-many-feet, *sb.* a centipede.

Meer, *sb.* a mare. ‘The white *meer* come oot o’ some ermy,’ *i.e.* the white mare had been in a cavalry regiment.

Meerin, Mearing, *sb.* a land boundary.

Melder, *sb.* the quantity of meal ground at one time for a person; a large vague quantity. ‘I’ve eatem a *melder*,’ *i.e.* I’ve eaten too much.

Mell whuns, *v.* to bruise whins (furze) with a mallet or ‘beetle,’ for cattle feeding.

Melt, (1) *sb.* the milt, or soft roe of a fish. (2) slang, *sb.* the tongue. ‘Keep in your *melt*.’ (3) ‘I’ll knock the *melt* out of you,’ a threat.

Ment, *v.* mended.

Meout, *sb.* a slight sound. ‘There wasn’t a *meout* out o’ the childre.’ ‘Don’t let a *meout* out o’ you.’

Messen, *sb.* a contemptuous term for a little person of either sex.

Mich, *v.* to play truant.

Mid kipple, *sb.* part of a flail. Same as [Hooden](#).

Midden, *sb.* a manure heap, or pit.

Midge's knee-buckle, *sb.* a very small article.

Miles, Milds, *sb.* a wild plant used as spinach, *Chenopodium album*.

Miller's lift, *sb.* an upward thrust with the point of a crowbar, to move a heavy object forwards.

Miller's thumb, *sb.* two small sea fishes are so called, *Cottus scorpius*, and *C. bulbalis*.

Mill eye. 'Hot from the *mill eye*,' a comparison for something freshly made.

Mim, Mimsey, *adj.* prim; prudish.

Mind, (1) *v.* to remind. 'Now *mind* me of that to-morrow.' (2) *v.* to observe. 'See! d'ye *mind* the way she's walkin'.' (3) *v.* to remember. 'I *mind* the time,' a common beginning to a story. 'I don't *mind* much about my father being killed' = I don't remember much, &c. (4) *sb.* recollection. 'I hadn't a bit *mind* of it.' (5) 'I was a *mind* to ha' done it,' *i.e.* I intended to do it. (6) 'I had no *mind*,' *i.e.* I forgot.

Mint, *v.* to beat; to aim a blow at; to hit with a stone; to hurt. '*Mint* the

gowler,' *i.e.* hit the dog with a stone or anything.

Misdoubt, *v.* to doubt; to suspect. "He *misdoubted* there wud be blood dhrawed somewhere or another."
— Ollminick.

Misert, *sb.* a miser.

Misertly, *ad.* [sic] miserly.

Mislippen, *v.* to neglect.

Mislippened, *adj.* neglected; not cared for. 'A *mislippened* child.'

Mislist, *v.* to molest.

Mismay, *v.* to annoy; to disturb.

Misses, *v.* 'There's not much *misses* you,' *i.e.* you notice every thing that goes on.'

Miss yer fut, to make a false step; to stumble.

Mistress, *sb.* wife. 'His *mistress* opened the door to me,' *i.e.* his wife.

Mizzle, (1) *sb.* a drizzle. (2) *v.* to drizzle; to run away; to disappear.

Moan, *v.* to pity.

Moan you a hair, pity you in the least.

Moat, *sb.* an earthen mound, or tumulus.

Mockin' 's catchin', *i.e.* mocking is catching. A warning not to mock or laugh at a person who is suffering from anything unpleasant, lest the same

misfortune may happen to one-self. It is said particularly to persons who are mimicking the personal defects of others.

Moiled, *adj.* bare, applied to a bare-looking building.

Moily, Moilya, *sb.* a hornless cow.

Moily, *adj.* hornless.

Molly gowan, *sb.* the fishing frog, *Lophius piscatorius*.

Molrooken, *sb.* the great crested grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*.

Money. 'Money's roun', an' it goes roun', saying.

Monkey flower, *sb.* mimulus.

Mools, *sb.* broken chilblains.

Mooly heels, *sb.* heels affected with 'mools'.

Mooth, *sb.* mouth. 'Ma heart was in ma mooth,' *i.e.* I was very much startled.

Mootther, *sb.* the proportion of meal or seeds that the miller takes as his payment for grinding.

Mope, *sb.* a mop.

More betoken. Besides, generally used when adding a circumstance to prove the correctness of a statement.

More holy nor godly, applied to a tattered garment.

More red nebs than midges: said in very cold weather.

More than middling, very superior. 'His mother was *more than middling*.'

Morn's morra, *sb.* the day after to-morrow.

Morra. 'The *morra* come niver' = never.

Morrian, *sb.* a fish, the ballan wrasse.

Same as [Bavin](#).

Morth o' cowl, *sb.* a very heavy cold.

Mortal, *or* Mortal, very, or very great. 'Mortal cold.' 'A mortal lot.'

Moss, *sb.* a peat bog.

Moss-ban, *sb.* the edge or boundary of a peat bog.

Moss-cheeper, *sb.* the titlark or meadow pippit.

Mother naked, *adj.* quite naked.

Mountain men, *sb. pl.* "That sect of dissenters called 'Covenanters'."

— McSkimin's *Carrickfergus*.

Mountainy, *adj.* mountain.

'Mountainy people.' 'Mountainy land.'

Mouth. 'Entry *mouth*,' *i.e.* entry end; where an entry opens on a street.

Mouth, (1) 'A *mouth* on you like a torn pocket,' a comparison. (2) 'He niver as much as axed me if A had a *mouth* on me,' *i.e.* he did not offer me anything to

eat or drink. (3) ‘You’re a *mouth*,’ an expression of contempt.

Mowls, Mowl, *sb.* i.e. moulds; earth.

Muckle, *adj.* much; big.

Muddle for potatoes, *v.* to get them out with the hands, surreptitiously.

Mud fat, *adj.* very fat. ‘The grass here is that good, that in six weeks a beast will get *mud fat* on it.’

Mud-lark, *sb.* a navvy, working at muddy embankments on excavations.

Mudler, *sb.* a small metal stamper, used in public houses to crush the lumps of sugar in punch.

Mudyees, *sb.* short tongs.

Mug, *sb.* the mouth; a sulky person.

Muggy, (1) *sb.* a hand-basket made of well twisted straw rope. (2) *adj.* foggy; close and wet; dark, applied to the weather.

Mull, *sb.* a mess; something spoiled.

Murphies, *sb. pl.* potatoes.

Murran-roe, *sb.* a fish, the ballan wrasse. Same as [Bavin](#).

Mussel picker, *sb.* a bird, the oyster catcher, *Hæmatopus ostralegus*.

My day, *sb.* all my life. ‘He’s the wee-est man ivir A seen in *ma day*.’

My lone, His lone, &c. *ad.* [sic] alone.

My lord, *sb.* a hunch-backed man.

My O! an exclamation of surprise.

N

Naethin’ ava, *sb.* nothing at all.

Nag, *sb.* the wooden ball or ‘knur,’ used in the game of ‘shinney’ (hockey); also called a ‘golley.’

Nager [naiger], *sb.* a niggardly person.

Nagerliness, *adj.* niggardliness.

Naggin, *sb.* a measure of liquid = quarter of a pint.

Naigies, *sb. pl.* horses.

Nail, *v.* to strike with a sure aim.

Nails. The little white marks that come and go on the finger-nails are the subject of the following dividing rhyme: we begin at the thumb — a gift; a friend; a foe; a lover; a journey to go.

Naperty, *sb.* a vetch, with a fleshy root, *Lathyrus macrorhizus*. Children dig up and eat the little knobs at the roots.

Napper, Nabber, *sb.* anything large and good of its kind.

Nature, *sb.* the name for a particular quality in flax, an oiliness, softness, or kindness in working, which is of great

value. 'This flax is hard and birsely, it has no *nature*.' 'Now here's a flax full of *nature*.'

Nauky, *adj.* cunning.

Neaped in, *adj.* term used when a vessel cannot get out of a harbour in consequence of tides or winds causing the water to be shallow.

Near, *adj.* miserly; penurious.

Near begone, *adj.* penurious; stingy. 'Near begone people disn't give the workers mate enough sometimes, an' that's a burnin' shame.'

Near by, *adv.* near at hand. 'Do you live near by?'

Neardest, *adj.* nearest.

Near hand, *adj.* near; nearly; almost. 'I was near han' kilt.' 'Not a shot came near hand us.' 'The rope was not near hand long enough.'

Neayghen, *sb.* a small marine bivalve, about the size of a cockle, used for bait.

Neb, *sb.* the nose; a bird's bill.

Neck, *v.* to catch and shake a person.

Nedcullion, *sb.* the wood anemone. Said to be derived from *colleen*, Ir. for girl (Co. Derry).

Needcessity, *sb.* necessity.

Neeze, *v.* to sneeze.

Neighbour, (1) *sb.* a fellow; a match.

'A'm lookin' for the *neighbour* of ma shai,' *i.e.* I'm looking for the fellow of my shoe. (2) *v.* to give mutual assistance in farming, by lending and borrowing men and horses. Same as to [Marrow](#).

Neugh, *v.* to catch, or grasp a person.

Never off his back, never ceasing to advise, or scold, or look after a person.

New-ans, or Newance, something new; a novelty. 'It's *new-ans* to see you down so early.' 'Ye're behavin' yerself for *new-ans*,' *i.e.* you are behaving well for a novelty.

New-fangled, *adj.* strange; new-fashioned; much taken up with some new thing.

Next, *adv.* near. 'Are you going *next* the quay?'

Nick and go, *sb.* a close shave. 'It was just *nick and go* with him.'

Nicker, *v.* to neigh.

Nick my near, *sb.* a narrow escape; a close shave. Same as [Nick and go](#).

Nick of time, *sb.* the right moment. 'I arrived in the *nick of time*.'

Nieve, *sb.* the fist, or closed hand.

Nievy.

'*Nievy*, navy, nick nack.

Which han' will ye tak',

The right or the wrang,

I'll beguile ye if I can.'

The rhyme is used in a game played with the closed hands; in one hand of the player is a marble, or any small object; the other is empty. The second player tries to choose the hand that is not empty. Same as the old English game of 'Handy-Dandy.'

Nignay, Nignoy, *v.* to do what is useless; to do something, but with no good result.

Nignays, Nignoys, *sb. pl.* useless profitless doings.

Nigh han', *adv.* near; nearly.

Nippin', *adj.* painful with cold. 'Ma toes is just *nippin*.'

Nits, *sb. pl.* small objects among the hair, supposed to be the eggs of vermin, or young lice.

Niver 's a long day, a saying.

No, *adv.* not. 'I'll *no* do it.'

Noan, *adv.* none.

No canny, *adj.* not lucky.

No fit, *adv.* not able. 'I'm *no fit* to draw a herrin' off the brander,' *i.e.* I am in the last stage of weakness.

Noggin, *sb.* a wooden vessel with a handle smaller than a 'piggin.' Porridge and milk used to be eaten out of *noggins*.

Noit, *sb.* 'A *noit* of a crayture,' an insignificant person.

No odds, no matter.

Noole-kneed, *adj.* knock-kneed.

Norraton, *sb.* a great noise. 'The dogs are making a great *norraton*.'

Not a founded, *sb.* nothing at all.

Not at himself, *adj.* mad; not in health.

Not can, *v.* cannot. 'You'll *not can* do that.'

Note, *sb.* A cow is said to be 'commin' forward to her *note*' when the time of her calving draws near. 'When is she at her *note*?' *i.e.* when will she calve? The expression seems to originate in a note that is kept of the expected time. "For sale, a Kerry cow, five years old, at her *note* in May." — Belfast Paper, 1875.

Not expected, *adj.* not expected to recover from sickness.

Notionate, *adj.* obstinate; self-opinionated; fanciful.

Notish, *v.* to notice.

Nout, *sb.* nothing. 'I got it for *nout*.'

Nowd, *sb.* the grey gurnard. Same as [Knowd](#).

Nudyan, *sb.* a bunnian.

Nurg, *adj.* miserly; stingy.

Nurr, *sb.* a small insignificant thing.

Nurse tender, *sb.* a monthly nurse.

O

O, *sb.* ‘a round O;’ a stupid or silly fellow; a softy.

Oberins, *sb.* ‘Wee *oberins*,’ means trifling work.

Oblodgement, *sb.* a kindness.

Och-a-nee! *int.* an expression of weariness or sorrow.

Odd or even, *sb.* a boys’ game. A boy shuts up a few small objects, such as marbles in one hand, and asks his opponent to guess is the number *odd* or *even*. He then either pays or receives one, according as the guess is right or wrong.

Of, *as.* ‘The same *of* that,’ *i.e.* the same as that.

Ofal, *sb.* the refuse part of ground wheat.

Off and on, more or less; there about.

Offence. ‘No *offence*,’ is a rejoinder when a person has said, ‘I beg your pardon.’

Offer, (1) *sb.* an attempt. (2) to attempt. ‘Don’t *offer* to do it,’ *i.e.* don’t attempt; don’t dare.

Ogenagh, *sb.* a simpleton.

Oh then! *int.* Oh indeed!

Old-fashioned, Oul-fashioned, *adj.* knowing or cunning.

Old May day, *sb.* the twelfth of May.

Old stock, *sb.* a familiar term in greeting an acquaintance. ‘Well, *old stock*, how are ye the day?’

Old wife, *sb.* a fish, the ballan wrasse, *Labrus maculatus*.

On, (1) *prep.* used for ‘to.’ ‘Who did it *on* you?’ ‘Who done it *on* you?’ *i.e.* who did it to you? There is another idiomatic use of *on* in the expression, ‘Don’t break it *on* me,’ *i.e.* don’t break that thing of mine. (2) *adv.* continually; without stopping. ‘They would sit there and eat *on*.’ (3) *adv.* ready. ‘*On* for sport.’ (4) is sometimes prefixed to the words to-morrow and yesterday, thus — ‘I’ll do it *on* to-morrow.’

Ondaicent, *adj.* unfair.

On dying, dying. ‘They say he’s just *on dying*.’

One purpose, on purpose.

Ones, *sb.* people. ‘What’s the reason, sir, that Tomson’s *ones* always sends them kind o’ coals?’

Onset, *sb.* a small cluster of houses: ‘McCullough’s *onset*.’

Ontorious, *adj.* notorious.

On you, on your person; about you.
'Have you any money *on you*?'

Open weather, *sb.* weather in winter
that is not frosty.

Or, *adv.* till. 'It won't be long *or* we'll be
back.'

Orchit, *sb.* an orchard.

Ordinary, *adj.* plain-looking, as a
person.

Or ever, *adv.* before. 'It's twelve *or*
ever you're in bed.'

Ortin', *v.* rejecting; taking out, as a cow
does the good fodder from the bad.

Ortins, Oartins, *sb.* refuse; anything
rejected. "Other weemen's *ortins* shan't
be Sally's pick." — Flecher. "The
mornin's *oartins* is the evening's
fodther," saying. It arises from cow-
house experience.

Other, each other. 'If they take out the
gun they'll shoot *other*.'

Other morrow, *sb.* the day after to-
morrow.

Our, *adv.* over.

Our ones, Our uns, *sb.* my own family.
'*Our ones* all goes to meetin.'

Out-by, *adj.* out of doors; outside the
house.

Outlandish, *adj.* foreign, such as ships
belonging to foreign countries.

Out of the face, *adv.* to do a thing '*out of
the face*' is to do it right through from
first to last without stopping.

Out of one's name, by a wrong name.
'He called me *out of my name*,' *i.e.* not by
my own name.

Out ower, *adv.* out; quite over.

Out-relation, *sb.* a distant relative.

Out-wailins, *sb.* refuse.

Over, *adj.* asleep. 'The chile's just *over*.'

Over all, *adv.* 'That's *over all* ivir A
heerd,' *i.e.* that surpasses all, &c.

Over-looked, *v.* the same as Over-seen,
and means having received the 'blink of
an evil eye.'

Overly much, *adv.* too much. 'That
meat's *overly much* done.'

Owrance, *sb.* master; authority; having
command over.

Oxther, *sb.* the armpit.

"Whether would you rather

Or rather would you be

Legs to the *oxther*

Or belly to the knee?"

Oxther-cogged, *v.* 'They *oxther-*
cogged you home,' *i.e.* helped you along
by holding you up by the arm-pits.

P

Pad, *sb.* a path.

Paddlin' walk, *sb.* a gait, in which the steps made are very short.

Paddock, Poddock, *sb.* a frog.

Padrolls, *sb.* 'On his *padrolls*,' *i.e.* on his walks or rounds.

Paidlin', *v.* wandering; walking or running with short steps.

'A *paidlin*' collie,' a wandering dog. A horse that is standing, and lifts his feet in an uneasy way, is said to be *paidlin*'.

Pairins, *sb.* thin fragments of pork pared off the bones, in pork-curing stores.

Palms, *sb. pl.* small branches of the Spruce fir, also budded twigs of the willow. These are supplied on Palm Sunday to persons attending services in the Roman Catholic Churches.

Pamphrey, *sb.* a kind of cabbage.

Pandy, *sb.* a punishment at school, being a blow on the hand from a cane or ruler.

Pane, *sb.* a section of ground in a garden.

Pangd, *v.* stuffed full (of food).

Paps, *sb. pl.* teats. 'A cow's *paps*.'

Paramoudra, *sb.* a large cylindrical mass of flint, sometimes the shape of the human trunk. It is said that this curious word is merely gibberish, coined by a facetious quarryman to puzzle the late Dr. Buckland, when he was geologizing among the co. Antrim chalk rocks.

Parfit, *adj.* perfect.

Parge, *v.* to plaster the inside of a chimney with mortar.

Parritch, *sb.* porridge.

Parten, *sb.* the shore crab, *Carcinus maenas*. Also called Butcher.

Pastre, *sb.* the pastern of a horse.

Patch. 'Not a *patch* on it,' *i.e.* not to compare to it.

Pattheridge, *sb.* a partridge.

Pawky, *adj.* sly; cunning.

Pea shaups, *sb. pl.* pea shells.

Peaswisp, *sb.* a small bundle of anything tossed roughly together like a wisp of pea straw. 'Your head's just like a *peaswisp*.'

Peat waight, *or* weght, *sb.* a tray or sieve on which peat was carried into the house.

Peeler, *sb.* a crab which has cast its shell, and is soft; used for bait.

Peel garlick, *sb.* a yellow person: a person dressed shabbily or fantastically.

Peely grass, *sb.* barley, with the ‘hulls’ and ‘auns’ removed.

Peen, *sb.* the cross end of a mechanic’s hammer, opposite to the face.

Pee-pee, the call for pea-fowl.

Peep hawk, *sb.* the kestrel.

Peerie, *sb.* a peg-top.

Peewee, Peesweep, *sb.* the lapwing.

Pegh, *s.* [sic] to pant; to puff.

Pelt, *sb.* the skin of an animal. ‘Bare *pelt*,’ one’s bare skin.

Penned, *v.* contracted. A horse sometimes has its knee ‘*penned* in the sinews.’

Penny bird, *sb.* the little grebe. Also called Drink-a-penny.

Pens, *sb. pl.* the old twigs in a hedge.

Pernicketty, *adj.* particular; hard to please.

Perswadians, *sb. pl.* persuasion; entreaties. ‘Through *perswadians* I done it.’

Peter Dick, *sb.* a child’s toy made of a half walnut shell, a small piece of stick and some thread. When played upon by the fingers in a particular way, it makes a ticking noise, and is supposed to say:—

‘Peter Dick,

Peter Dick,

Peter Dick’s peat stack.’

Petted on, *v.* to be fond of a person, as a child is.

Pevil, *v.* to strike rapidly.

Phaisians, *sb.* pheasants.

Piano rose, *sb.* the peony.

Pickin’ calf, *v.* Same as Casting Calf, *i.e.* dropping a calf before the time.

Pickle, *sb.* a very small quantity; one grain.

Pickcock, *or* Picky, *sb.* Same as [Blockan](#). A small fish, the young of the coal-fish.

Piece, *sb.* what a child gets for lunch; it is generally a piece of bread.

Pied, *v.* searched; examined.

Pig-croo, *sb.* a pig-sty.

Pigeon. ‘A *pigeon’s* pair,’ a term for a family of two children only.

Pigeon walk, *sb.* a boy’s game.

Piggin, *sb.* a small wooden vessel made of hoops and staves, with one stave prolonged so as to form a handle, used for milking in, &c.

Pig’s whisper, *sb.* a loud whisper, one meant to be heard.

Pig’s wrack, *sb.* a kind of sea wrack, boiled with meal or potatoes, and given as food for pigs.

Pike, *sb.* a rick of hay.

Piky dog, *sb.* the piked dog-fish. Same as Gobbuck.

Pile, *sb.* a single grain of shot.

Pill, Bad pill, *or* Bitter pill, *sb.* a disagreeable person.

Pillaber, *sb.* a pillow.

Pin bone, *sb.* the pointed bone above a horse's flank.

Pingey lookin', *adj.* tight; pinched looking.

Pink, (1) *sb.* a term of endearment applied by a young man to his sweetheart. (2) *v.* to strike with a sure aim.

Pin well, *sb.* a well in the demesne of Red Hall, near Carrickfergus, is so-called. A person having drunk from it throws in a pin as an offering.

Pipe. 'Put *that* in your *pipe* and smoke it,' an expression enforcing some rather disagreeable piece of advice or information.

Pipers, *sb. pl.* stems of grass.

Pipe stapple, *sb.* the stem of a clay pipe.

Pirn, *sb.* a wooden bobbin.

Pirn cage, *sb.* an arrangement of pins standing up from a square frame, and in which '*pirns*' or bobbins are stuck — used in power-loom factories.

Pirre-maw, *sb.* the tern.

Pismire, Pishmither, *sb.* an ant.

Placket hole, *sb.* a pocket hole.

Pladdy, *sb.* (Pladdies, *pl.*) a sunken rock.

Planet showers, *sb. pl.* short heavy showers.

Plan of wrack. In parts of the co. of Down the flat portion of the shore, between high and low water mark, is divided into plots, each of which belongs to a certain farm, and on these plots or 'plans' the farmers grow seaweed for manure, cutting the wrack periodically, and carting it inland. Stones are placed for the wrack to grow on.

Planting, *sb.* a plantation of young trees.

Plants, *sb.* young cabbage plants fit for planting out.

Plarted, *v.* fell down.

Plaster, *sb.* anything overloaded with vulgar showy ornament.

Plastery, *adj.* gaudy; over-ornamented.

Plates, *sb. pl.* flat rocks in a harbour.

Play oneself, *v.* to play. 'Play yourselves,' *i.e.* go and play. 'The chile's playin' his self.'

Pleaich, *sb.* the 'sea devil' or fishing frog, *Lophius*. Also called Molly gowan, Kilmaddy, &c.

Pleasement, *sb.* what pleases; satisfaction; gratification. 'I was glad to

hear it, but perhaps it's no *pleasement* to you.' 'I'll do it to your *pleasement*.'

Plenishing, *sb.* the furnishing of a house.

Ploigher, *v.* to cough in an asthmatic or wheezing way.

Ploitin' down, *v.* falling down. 'What are ye *ploitin'* down for there, ye fitless falla.'

Plout, *v.* to splash.

Pock-arred, *adj.* pock-marked.

Poddock-stool, *sb.* a toad-stool.

Podes, *sb.* lice. Children are warned that if they do not allow their heads to be combed with a 'fine tooth comb,' the *podes* will make ropes of their hair, and drag them into the sea and drown them.

Point. 'Potatoes and *point*,' *i.e.* potatoes and nothing. The potatoes are supposed to be pointed at a herring as they are eaten, to give them an imaginary flavour.

Poitered out, Poutered out, *v.* said of land which has been exhausted, and has received only slight superficial cultivation.

Poke, *sb.* a bag

Poke shakins, *sb.* the last child borne by a woman — supposed to be puny. 'That's a brave chile, it's no the *poke shakins* I'm thinkin'.

Polled, having the horns cut off. Same as *Skulled*.

Polluted, *adj.* puffed up with pride; conceited; overrun. 'Them people 's got quite *polluted*.' 'The house is *polluted* with books.' '*Polluted* with beggars,' &c. 'The other man *polluted* the mearing,' *i.e.* he tampered with the boundary.

Pont, *sb.* a kind of boat which carries thirty hundred-weight of turf, used on Lough Neagh (Mason's *Par. Survey*).

Pooin', *v.* pulling.

Poor mouth, *v.* to 'make a *poor mouth*,' to complain of troubles or poverty, and to make the most of these, for the purpose of exciting pity.

Poppel, *sb.* a flower, the corn-cockle, *Lychnis Githago*.

Porvent, Purvent, *v.* to prevent.

Poss-tub, Pouss-tub, *sb.* a kind of wash-tub.

Post. 'Between you and me and the *post*,' a preliminary to something confidential being told.

Posy, *sb.* a flower.

Potyeen, Poteen, *sb.* illicit whiskey.

Pouce, *sb.* the floating dust in rooms where flax is being dressed.

Poucy, *adj.* asthmatic, from the effects of inhaling '*pouce*.'

Pounder, *sb.* a person who sells freestone for scouring; the freestone is sold pounded.

Pouss, *v.* to push clothes against the bottom of a tub when washing. ‘Gie the claes a guid *poussing*.’

Power, *sb.* a great quantity. ‘He made a *power* o’ money.’

Pox, *sb.* the small-pox. ‘Cut for the *pox*,’ vaccinated.

Praity-oaten, *sb.* a kind of bread made of potatoes and oaten meal; in texture it is very coarse. ‘As coarse as *praity-oaten*,’ saying.

Prank, *v.* to amuse oneself.

Pree, *v.* to taste.

Presha, Presha bhwee, Prushus, *sb.* the wild kale, *Sinopsis arvensis* (*bhwee* is from Ir. for yellow).

Prick at the loop, a cheating game played with a strap and skewer, at fairs, &c., by persons of the thimble-rig class, probably the same as the game called Fast and Loose.

Prig, *v.* to beat down in price. Same as to [Haggle](#).

Prittaz, Praitays, *sb.* potatoes.

Prod, (1) ‘He gave me a *prod*,’ *i.e.* he cheated me in something he sold me. (2) *v.* to prick or stab. ‘*Prod* him with a pitch-fork.’

Proddled, *v.* prodded, *i.e.* stabbed or poked up. ‘Your eyes are like a *proddled* cat under a bed,’ saying.

Proker, *sb.* a poker.

Proper, *adj.* good. ‘A *proper* spade.’

Pross, (1) *sb.* a process at law. (2) *v.* to sue a person. ‘I *prossed* him.’

Puck, *sb.* a blow. ‘He got a *puck* in the eye.’

Puckan-sulla, *sb.* a basket or hamper made of well twisted oat straw rope, used for holding seed potatoes; it holds about two and a half bushels.

Puddle, *sb.* a small dirty pool; prepared or tempered clay.

Pullan, Pollan, *sb.* the ‘fresh water herring’ of Lough Neagh, *Coregonus Pollan*.

Purre, *sb.* two sea birds, the tern and the black-headed gull.

See [Pirre](#) and [Pyrmaw](#).

Purty middlin’, *adj.* pretty well; reply to a salutation.

Pushla, *sb.* See [Coo-pushla](#).

Put down one’s foot, to come to a determination of stopping some thing which has been going on.

Put on, *v.* to put on clothes; to dress oneself. ‘I had hardly time to *put on* me.’ ‘He rose an’ *put on* him.’

Pyot, *sb.* a magpie.

Pyrmaw, *sb.* a sea bird, probably the tern or ‘purre’ (Harris, *Hist. Co. Down*, 1744).

Q

Quaa, Quah, *sb.* a marsh; a quagmire, or shaking bog.

Quait, *adj.* quiet.

Quaker. ‘You’re not a *quaker*?’ said in bargaining to persons who will not abate the price they have asked.

Quakin’ esp, *sb.* a kind of poplar with trembling leaves.

Quality, *sb.* gentry.

Quare, Queer, *adj.* very ‘*quare an’ nice*’ = very nice.

Quarter cleft, *sb.* a crazy person.

Quern, *sb.* the old hand-mill, consisting of two stones.

Quey, or Quy, *sb.* a female calf.

Quickens, *sb. pl.* couch grass. Same as [Scutch grass](#).

Quicks, *sb. pl.* young thorn plants for setting.

Quo’ he, *v.* said he. This with ‘*quo’ she, quo’ I*’ are in very general use.

Quut, Quet, *v.* quit. ‘*Quut yer cloddin*’; *i.e.* stop throwing stones.

R

Raave, *sb.* a fresh water plant, *Anacharis*.

Rack comb, *sb.* a dressing comb.

Rack of mutton, *sb.* a breast of mutton.

Ram-stam, *adj.* headling; rash.

Randy, *sb.* a wild reckless fellow; an indelicate romping woman; a scold.

Rannel, *v.* among school-boys; to pull the hair.

Rannel-tree, Raivel-tree, *sb.* the cross-beam in a byre to which the cows’ stakes are fastened; hence a long thin person is called a ‘*rannel-tree*’ or is said to be ‘as thin as a *rannel-tree*.’

Ranners, *sb. pl.* wild indistinct dreams.

Ranty-berries, *sb.* rowan-tree berries.

Ratherly, or Retherly, *adv.* rather.

Rausps, *sb. pl.* raspberries.

Ream, *v.* to froth or foam, as a liquor.

Red, (1) done work. ‘What time will you get *red*?’ (2) *v.* to put in order; to separate fighters.

Reddin’ kaim, *sb.* a dressing-comb.

Same as [Rack-comb](#).

Red head.

‘Red head, fiery skull,

Every hair in your head would tether a bull.’

Said derisively to a red-haired person.

Red loanin’, *sb.* the throat (inside).

Redshank, (1) a flowering plant, *Polygonum Persicaria*. (2) ‘Run like a *redshank*,’ *i.e.* as fast as you can. I suppose the *redshank* is the wading bird so called, and not the human *redshank*, known to readers of the Irish wars.

Red the road! clear the way!

Ree, *adj.* fresh as a restive horse; wanton.

Reef, *sb.* a rent or tear.

Reek, *sb.* smoke; the smell of peat smoke.

Reel, *v.* to quiz or humbug.

Reel-fitted, *adj.* club-footed.

Ree-raw, *adj.* untidy; confused.

Reeve, *v.* to split wood by heat. ‘The sun will *reeve* it.’

Remember, *v.* to remind. ‘Well, sir, I’ll call in the morning and *remember* you about it.’

Remlet, *sb.* a remnant.

Remove, *sb.* the re-shoeing of a horse with the old shoes.

Rench, Range, *v.* to rinse.

Renlet, Runlet, *sb.* a small barrel.

Residenter, *sb.* an old inhabitant.

Ret, *v.* to steep flax.

Rex, *v.* to reach.

Ribish, *adj.* thin, as applied to persons, but more especially to pigs. ‘They come of a *ribish* breed.’

Rice, *sb.* a small branch of a tree; a twig.

Ricketty, *sb.* a ratchet brace for boring metal.

Rift, *v.* to belch.

Rig, *sb.* a ridge.

Rig and fur, ridge and furrow in a field. A particular kind of knitting is also called ‘*rig and fur*.’

Riggin, *sb.* the ridge of a house.

Right, *adv.* thorough; very; good. ‘He’s a *right* rascal.’ ‘You’re a *right* bad boy.’ ‘He’s a *right* wee fellow.’

Rightly, *adv.* in good health; right well; very well. ‘I’m *rightly*.’ ‘I know him *rightly*.’ ‘He got *rightly* frightened.’

Rip, *sb.* a handful of unthrashed corn.

Rippet, *sb.* a row, or disturbance.

Ripple, *v.* to take the seed off flax. See [Flax ripple](#).

Ripple grass, *Plantago lanceolata*.

Rive, *v.* to tear; to split.

Roach, *sb.* the rudd or red-eye *Leuciscus erythrophthalmus*.

Road, (1) *sb.* way. 'What *road* are you going?' (2) 'No *road*,' is the formula for 'no thoroughfare.' (3) *v.* to direct; to show the way. 'Who *roaded* you?'

Roans, *sb. pl.* 'Hazely *roans*,' hazel brakes. 'Bracken *roans*,' fern brakes.

Robin-run-the-hedge, *sb.* a plant, *Galium aparine*. The juice of this plant is extracted and boiled with sugar, and given as a remedy in whooping-cough.

Rockets, *sb. pl.* the plumes of a hearse.

Rodden, *sb.* a little road; a mountain path.

Rope, *v.* 'The clay *ropes* off my spade like putty.'

Rose, *sb.* 'The *rose*' is a name for erysipelas.

Rosit-slut, or Rosin-slut, *sb.* a rag dipped in resin and used as a substitute for a candle.

Rot-heap, *sb.* a heap of weeds left to rot for manure.

Roughness, *sb.* plenty; abundance. 'There's a great *roughness* about his farm,' *i.e.* great plenty. 'Them people has a great *roughness* of money about them.'

Rough weed, *sb.* *Strachys palustris*.

Round cast, *sb.* a particular throw in sowing grain. 'He sows with a *round cast*.'

Roup, *sb.* an auction.

Routh, or Rouths, *sb.* plenty; abundance.

Routing-wheel, *sb.* an eddy or whirlpool at the entrance of Strangford Lough. Mentioned by Harris (1744).

Rowt, *v.* to bellow or roar as a bull.

Rrog, a sea-weed, the long tangle, *Chorda filum*.

Rubber, *sb.* a housemaid's dusting-cloth; a coarse kitchen towel.

Rubber apron, *sb.* an apron made of coarse material.

Ruchness. Same as [Roughness](#), abundance.

Ruction, *sb.* a row, or disturbance.

Rue, *v.* to change one's mind; to draw back. 'To take the *rue*,' to repent of an engagement, or promise.

Rugg, *v.* to pull about roughly; to pull the hair.

Ruggle o' banes, *sb.* a thin person.

Ruinate, *v.* to destroy.

Ruination, *sb.* ruin.

Rullion, *sb.* a big, coarse, dirty fellow.

Rummle, (1) 'Put that in your jug an' *rummle* it,' *i.e.* consider that piece of

information or advice. Same as Put that in your pipe and smoke it. (2) *v.* to rumble; to shake about. 'I feel that *rummlin'* about in my inside.'

Rundale, a plan of working farms in partnership; mentioned as a 'pernicious practice' in M'Skimin's *Carrickfergus*, 1822. Anciently many farms were wrought in '*rundale*.'

Rung, (1) a round or step of a ladder; the rail of a chair. (2) *sb.* an old woman. 'That auld *rung* o' mine's bravely,' a young lad.

Runners, *sb. pl.* small channels for water. 'I made *runners* across the pad to keep it dry.'

Runrig, *sb.* Same as [Rundale](#).

Runt, (1) *sb.* a dwarfish person; an old woman. (2) *sb.* a stalk. 'A kale *runt*.'

Rust, *v.* to be restive or stubborn.

Rusty, *adj.* restive or stubborn.

S

Sack, *v.* to vanquish an opponent by a show of superior learning. — W. Carleton.

Sacrament, *sb.* an oath.

Sad, *adj.* sodden, as badly-baked bread.

Sads. 'Sitting over their *sads*,' *i.e.* regretting something; repenting.

Safety, *adj.* (pronounced sometimes as a trisyllable). A useful article in nurseries is called a '*saf-e-ty* pin.'

Saggan, *sb.* the wild iris.

Said, *v.* 'To be *said*,' to be advised. 'Now be *said* by me.'

Sail, *sb.* a ride in a cart or carriage of any kind.

Sailor-man, *sb.* a sailor.

Sailor's grip, *sb.* a mode of holding hands by hooking the fingers.

Sair-bones, *sb.* 'A'll gi'e ye *sair-banes*,' *i.e.* I'll give you a beating.

Saired, *v.* served.

Sair sought, *adj.* nearly worn out with age or weakness.

Sair-wrought, *adj.* hard-worked.

Sally, *sb.* a willow.

Sally wran, *sb.* the willow wren.

Salt. 'You will shed a tear for every grain of *salt* you waste.'

Same of, same as. 'Can you give me a knife the *same of* that?'

Sang. 'Pon my *sang*,' a mild kind of oath.

Sannies. 'Upon my *sannies*,' a mild oath.

Sark, *sb.* a shirt.

Sarking, *sb.* a coarse kind of linen; a sheeting of wood under the slates of a roof.

Saturday. '*Saturday* flit, short sit.'

Servants think it unlucky to go home to a new place on Saturday.

Saugh, *sb.* a willow.

Sauny-go-softly, *sb.* a soft fellow.

Saut, *sb.* salt.

Saving your presence, excuse the word. 'But, *savin' your presence*, the smell was that bad that,' &c.

Saw doctor, *sb.* a workman who repairs and sharpens saws.

Scabbling, or Scaveling, hammer, *sb.* a large hammer for chipping stone.

Scald, *sb.* 'A heart *scald*,' a sore trouble. 'He's heart *scalded* with her,' greatly troubled by her.

Scale-drake, *sb.* the shell-drake, *Anas Tadorna*.

Scame, Scam, *v.* to scorch.

Scantling, (1) *sb.* wood cut to special sizes for carpenters' use.

(2) *sb.* measurement of wood or iron to be used in work. 'What *scantlings* of iron will you put into the gate?'

Scart, *v.* to scratch.

Scaud, *v.* to scald. 'It's sae het it wud *scaud* a pig,' a comparison.

Scaur, Scar, *sb.* a steep or overhanging bank of earth; a reef or ridge of rocks.

Scheme, *v.* to endeavour to escape work by false pretences.

Scholar, *sb.* one who can read and write. 'It's a sore thing not to be a *scholar*.'

School, Schull, *sb.* a shoal of fish.

Scobes, *sb. pl.* rods of hazel or willow, sharpened at both ends, for pinning down the thatch to the 'scraws' or sods in thatching a house. Same as [Scollops](#).

Scog, *sb.* an offensive or mocking valentine.

Scollops, *sb. pl.* See [Scobes](#).

Sconce, (1) *sb.* a skulking person.

(2) *sb.* a hiding-place: used by wild-fowl shooters. It is generally a slight shelter built of stones on a beach.

Sconcer, *sb.* one who pretends to be sick in order to escape work.

Scope, (1) *sb.* an extent of land. 'He owns a large *scope* of mountain.'

(2) *sb.* in trawling or dredging the extra length of rope which is paid out after the dredge has reached the bottom is called the *scope*. 'Give it a faddom or two more *scope*.'

Scotch lick, *sb.* a very slight wash of the face or hands.

Scotch penny, *sb.* the thick English penny of 1797.

Scout, (1) *sb.* a squirt or syringe.
(2) *v.* to squirt.

Scout-hole, Scoot-hole, *sb.* a rat-hole to which rats run for shelter when chased, or a concealed hole planned for exit, by which rabbits may escape when their principal holes are watched.

Scrab, (1) *sb.* a scratch. (2) *v.* to scratch. 'The cat near *scrabbed* his eyes out.'

Scaigh, Scaik, *sb.* a scream, such as the cry of a sea-gull.

Scaigh o' day, *sb.* early morning.

Scran. 'Bad *scran* to you,' bad luck to you. *Scran* is said to mean *food*.

Scrat, *sb.* something small. 'The fowls he had were only wee *scrats*.'

Scraw, (1) *sb.* a thin strip of sward or turf. *Scraws* are laid under the thatch of a house to receive the points of the 'scobes' or 'scollops.' (2) *v.* to strip sods off the surface of a field. 'Do you want to *scraw* the man's land?'

Scraw, Scra, *v.* to cover a bank with sods. 'To *scraw* a grave.'

Screech cock, *sb.* the missel thrush.

Screed, *sb.* a rent or tear in clothes; a discourse or harangue.

Screeding, *sb.* the mortar pointing round a window-frame.

Screenge, *sb.* a mean, miserly person.

Screw mouse, *sb.* the shrew.

Scrimpit, *adj.* scanty.

Scringe, *v.* to creak; to make a grinding or rasping noise.

Scrogs, *sb. pl.* places covered with furze, hazel, brambles, &c.

Scrubby, *adj.* mean; shabby.

Scruff, *sb.* a mean fellow.

Scruff of the neck, *sb.* the back of the neck.

Scrunch, *sb.* a crush or squeeze.

Scud, *v.* to slap.

Scuff, *v.* to subject to abuse or wear; to make shabby.

Scuffed, injured in appearance by wear or abuse.

Scuffle, (1) *sb.* a hoe that is pushed — called in trade a 'Dutch hoe.' (2) *v.* to hoe walks or beds with a *scuffle*. (3) *v.* to scrape or drag the feet along the ground.

Sculder, Scaldar, *sb.* a jelly-fish (*medusa*) of any species.

Scunner, Scunhur, Scunder, *sb.* a disgust; a loathing. 'I've taken a *scunhur* at that man.'

Scutch, *v.* to remove the 'shives' or 'shows' from flax.

Scutch grass, *sb.* couch grass. Same as [Quickens](#).

Scutch mill, *sb.* a mill where flax is 'scutched'.

Scutching tow, *sb.* the rough tow which is taken off flax at a scutch mill.

Scythe hook, *sb.* a reaping-hook that requires to be sharpened, as distinguished from a 'toothed hook' or sickle.

Seam, *sb.* 'Goose *seam*,' goose fat.

Selch, *sb.* a seal, *Phoca*.

'Seed, breed, and generation,' the whole of one's family and relatives.

Seeds, *sb. pl.* the husks of oats.

See [Sowans](#).

See outens, *v.* to go about for pleasure. 'If A didn't *see outens* when A'm young, when would A?'

Seep, *v.* to leak or ooze.

Seepage, *sb.* what 'seeps' or leaks. 'There's a great *seepage* from that cask.'

Sel, self: hence *himself*, *hersel*, *themsel*, *m'sel*.

Server, *sb.* a small tray or salver.

Set, (1) *sb.* a spell. 'A long *set* of saft weather.' (2) A 'low *set* person,' a person with a squat figure. (3) *v.* to plant. (4) *v.* determined. (5) *v.* 'She *sets* that very well,' *i.e.* that becomes her very well. (6) *v.* 'The night is *set*,' *i.e.* the night

is fixed; night has come on.

(7) *adj.* applied to a person who has stopped growing taller. 'She's quite *set* lookin'.' (8) *v.* to appoint. 'I can't *set* no time,' *i.e.* I cannot appoint a time.

Set a stitch, *v.* to make a stitch in sewing.

Sett, *sb.* the number of ridges of corn that a 'boon' or reaping party is spread over. If there are ten able-bodied reapers in the 'boon,' the *sett* would consist of ten ridges.

'Set tae lowe,' set on fire.

Setting down, *sb.* a scolding. Same as [Doing off](#).

Setts, *sb. pl.* 'Paving *setts*' or 'cross *setts*,' rectangular blocks of stone used for paving streets.

Seven'dible, *sb.* thorough or severe; very great.

Severals, *sb. pl.* several persons or things. 'Severals told me about it.'

Shaaps, Shaups, *sb. pl.* the shells of beans or peas.

Shade, *sb.* the parting or division of the hair on one's head; a shed.

Shai, *sb.* a shoe.

Shaima-hait, *sb.* nothing. Same as [Sorra hait](#), Deil a hait.

Shamrock, *sb.* The lesser yellow trefoil (*Trifolium minus*) is the plant the leafy part of which is worn as a *shamrock* in Patrick's Day (March 17th).

Shandry-dan, *sb.* an old shaky and noisy car or carriage.

Shank, *sb.* a handle.

Shanks's mare, *sb.* on foot. 'We went there on *shanks's mare*.'

Shanough, (1) *sb.* a confidential chat.
(2) *v.* to talk confidentially; to gossip.

Sharn, *sb.* cow-dung.

Shaver, *sb.* a wag or funny fellow; a keen, shrewd fellow.

Shear, *v.* to reap corn.

Shearin', *sb.* the cutting of corn.

Sheebeen, *sb.* a place where intoxicating drink is sold without a license [sic].

Sheebeening, *v.* keeping a place for the unlicensed sale of drink.

She-cock, *sb.* corruption of 'Shake cock', a small hay-stack built up loosely.

Shedding, *sb.* the place where cross roads intersect.

Sheela, a 'molly-coddle' or effeminate man. *Sheela* is a woman's name.

Sheep's naperty, *sb.* a plant, *Potentilla tormentilla*.

Sheerman, *sb.* a workman employed at a bleach green. Obsolete. "Wanted a

skilful journeyman *sheerman* and dyer."
— *Belfast News-letter*, 1739.

She sole, *sb.* a fish, the whiff, *Rhombus Megastoma*.

Sheugh, *sb.* a ditch. 'I always let the *sheugh* build the dike,' *i.e.* I always let what was dug out of the ditch make the raised fence, a saying, my spending never exceeded my earning. 'Scourin' a dyke *sheugh*,' cleaning out a ditch.

Shill corn, *sb.* a small hard pimple on the face.

Shilling seeds, *sb. pl.* the husks of oats.

Shilty, *sb.* a pony (corruption of Shetland).

Shin, Shoon, *sb. pl.* shoes.

Shinnen, *sb.* a sinew.

Shinney, *sb.* hockey, a boys' game, played with *shinneys*, *i.e.* hooked sticks, and a ball or small block of wood called the 'golley' or 'nag.'

Shired, *adj.* thin: applied to a part of any knitted article which is thinner than the rest owing to loose knitting.

Shirey, *adj.* thin: applied to the thin part of a crop or of a garment, or of woven materials.

Shoddy, *sb. pl.* the smaller stones at a quarry.

Shoddy men, *sb. pl.* the men who shape paving sets, &c., at a quarry.

Shods, *sb. pl.* the iron heel-tips on men's boots.

Shoe mouth, *sb.* the open of a shoe. 'I was over the *shoe mouth* in glar.'

Shog, *sb.* a jolt or shake.

Shoo, *v.* to sew.

Shoot, *v.* to set a long line or net: a fisherman's term.

Shore, *sb.* a sewer.

Shot, *sb.* a half-grown pig.

Shotten herring, *sb.* a spent herring; one that has spawned.

Showl, *adj.* shallow, as '*showl* water.'

Shows, Shoughs, Shives, *sb. pl.* flax refuse. It si the hard part of the stem in small fragments.

Shuggy-shu, *sb.* (1) a beam of wood balanced so that persons sitting on the opposite ends go up and down alternately; (2) a swing.

Shuler, *sb.* a vagrant.

Shunners, *sb. pl.* cinders.

Shut, *sb.* a shutter.

Si, *sb.* a dressmaker's term for the part of a dress between the armpit and chest.

Sib, *adj.* related by blood.

Sic, *such.*

Siccan, *such.* 'Siccan a heap o' coos.'

Sicker, *adj.* sure; precise in mode of speaking.

Sight, *sb.* a quantity. 'There was a quare *sight* of people there.'

Silly-go-saftly, Silly-go-sefly, *sb.* a foolish, useless creature.

Simper, *v.* to simmer.

Sinnerry, Sinthery, *adv.* asunder.

Sirraft Chooseday, *sb.* Shrove Tuesday.

'Sit down off your feet,' sit down.

Sit fast, *sb.* a ranunculus, *R. repens.*

Skart, Scart, *sb.* a cormorant.

Skeeg, *sb.* a small quantity. Same as a Wee drop. 'There's no a *skeeg* o' watter in the kettle.' Same as [Squig](#).

Skee-weep, *sb.* a dash; a smear; something indistinct in writing.

Skeigh, *adj.* restless; frisky.

Skelf, (1) *sb.* a splinter or chip. 'He got a *skelf* o' wud ondher 'is nail.' (2) *v.* to splinter.

Skelly, (1) *sb.* a guess; an unsuccessful attempt. 'You made a queer *skelly* at it.' (2) *v.* to squint.

Skelp, (1) *sb.* a blow. (2) *v.* to run; to slap.

Skemlin, *sb.* a quantity of peat dug from the edges of a bog-hole, and thrown in to be mixed, and afterwards taken out

and dried. ‘Tak’ a *skemlin* aff that side o’ the hole.’

Skeow, *sb.* a large flat barge, used to receive the mud raised by a dredging machine.

Skep, *sb.* a straw bee-hive.

Skerry brand, *sb.* sheet lightning.

Skey, *sb.* a small artificial island forming part of an eel-weir.

Skiff, *sb.* a slight shower.

Skillet, *sb.* a small saucepan.

Skillop, *sb.* a gouge-shaped borer, of tapered form, for wood.

Skimp, *v.* to stint.

Skimpy, *adj.* a tight fit; short; deficient in quantity.

Skin a fairy, *v.* said of very cold weather. ‘Dear, but it’s that cowl it would *skin* a fairy.’

Skinadhre, *sb.* a thin, fleshless, stunted person.

Skink, *sb.* a mixture to drink.

Skip, a box in which stones are hoisted out of a quarry; a basket or crate to contain live fowls in transit; a large basket.

Skip-jack, *sb.* the merry-thought of a goose made into a child’s toy. See [Jump-jack](#).

Skirl, (1) *sb.* a cry or scream (2) *v.* to scream.

Skirr, *sb.* a sea-bird, the tern.

Skirt, *v.* to run.

Skite, (1) *sb.* a term of contempt; an empty, conceited fellow. (2) *sb.* a sharp slap or blow. (3) *v.* to slap.

Skiver, *sb.* a skewer.

Skiver the goose, *sb.* a boys’ game. Two persons are trussed somewhat like fowls: they then hop about on their ‘hunkers,’ each trying to upset the other.

Skull, *v.* ‘To *skull* cattle,’ to cut off their horns close to the head.

Skulled, *adj.* Same as [Horned](#) or [Polled](#). Applied to cattle which have been subjected to the cruel operation of having their horns sawn off close to the skull.

Skyble, *sb.* a thin person.

Slabby, *adj.* sloppy; muddle. ‘*Slabby* wet clay.’

Slack, *adj.* neglectful; remiss.

Slack lime, *v.* to put water on quick lime.

Slack spun, *adj.* said of a person who is half a fool. The same kind of person is said ‘to have only eleven cuts to the hank,’ or ‘he is not all there,’ or ‘he wants a square of being round,’ &c.

Slap, (1) *sb.* a gap or passage through a hedge for occasional use. It is closed by filling up the opening with branches, &c. (2) *sb.* a large quantity. 'A whole *slap* of money.'

Slater, or Slate-cutter, *sb.* the wood-louse, *Oniscus*, and several of the allied species of crustaceans.

Slats, *sb. pl.* The laths of a Venetian blind and the laths of a bed-stead are called *slats*.

Slattering, *v.* going about like a slattern.

Slavers, *sb. pl.* water flowing from the mouth.

Slay hook, *sb.* a small implement used by weavers; in slang, a term for a dried herring.

Sleech, *sb.* fluviatile or marine silt; seawrack growing on mud banks.

Sleech grass, *sb.* *Zostera marina*.

Sleek, Slake, *sb.* a smear; a streak of dirt.

Sleekit, *adj.* cunning; underhand; hypocritical.

Sleep in, *v.* to lie too long in the morning, so as to be late for work.

Slep, *v.* slept. 'A've *slep* noan.'

Sleuster, *v.* to flatter.

Slever, *sb.* saliva.

Sliggaun, *sb.* the pearl-bearing freshwater mussel, *Anodon cygnea*.

Slinge, *v.* to sneak about.

Slip, (1) *sb.* a pinafore. (2) *sb.* a young pig. (3) *v.* to let slip or escape from punishment. 'If ye do that again, see if I *slip* ye for it.'

Slipe, (1) *sb.* a triangular framework of wood on which large boulder stones are drawn out of fields; a large trough, like a cart without wheels, used for drawing earth or wet peat from one part of a field or bog to another; a kind of sledge on which stones are drawn down hilly roads. (2) *v.* 'To *slipe* stones' = to draw them out of a field on a 'slipe.'

'To *slipe* mud' = to carry it in a 'slipe' from the bog-hole to a level place where it is spread out to harden and cake into turf.

Slip of a girl, *sb.* a young, growing girl.

Slither, *v.* to slip or slide.

Sliver, *sb.* Flax in process of being spun by machinery is drawn out into a ribbon or long lock before it is twisted: this lock is called *sliver*.

Sliver can, *sb.* a tall cylinder of tin in which the 'sliver' is coiled away and then carried to the 'roving frame' to get the first twist.

Sloak, *sb.* a seaweed, laver, *Porphyra laciniata*. Called in the Co. of Clare 'sluke' or 'slukane.'

Slobbering bib, *sb.* a small, thick pinafore worn by infants.

Slockan, *v.* to quench fire or thirst.

Sloiterin', Sluterin', *v.* loitering or lingering about pretending to work.

Slonk, Slump, *sb.* a ditch; a deep, wet hollow in a road.

Slonky, *adj.* having muddy holes.
'That *slonky* road.'

Sloosh, *sb.* a sluice.

Sludge, *sb.* wet mud.

Slummage, *sb.* a soft stuff produced at distilleries used for cattle feeding.

Slump, (1) *sb.* a muddy place. 'The road was all *slumps* of holes.' (2) *v.* to sink in mud.

Slunge, (1) *sb.* a skulking, sneaking fellow. (2) *v.* to slink or lounge.

Slurry, *sb.* mud; 'glar.' 'I took eight buckets of black *slurry* out of his well.'

Sluttherin', Swattherin', *v.* applied to the noisy, slopping way that ducks feed.

Slype, *v.* to strip the branches off trees.
'They would come and *slype* them down in the night for no use.'

Small family, *sb.* a family of small children.

Smell, *sb.* a small quantity.

Smirr, Smurr, *sb.* 'A *smirr* of rain,' a slight shower.

Smit, *v.* infected. 'I think you've *smit* me with that cowl.'

Smithereens, *sb. pl.* small fragments.

Smittle, *adj.* infectious. 'Is it anything *smittle* he has?'

Smoorin', *v.* smothering — in sense of covering over, as snow over ground or treacle over bread.

Smud, Smudge, *v.* to smoulder.

Smuddy coom, Smiddy coom, *sb.* the ashes from a smith's forge.

Smudge, *sb.* a concealed laugh.

Smudging, *v.* laughing in a smothered way.

Snack, Snick, *sb.* a thumb-latch.

Snail's pace, *sb.* To go at a *snail's pace*, to go very slowly.

Snakes, *sb.* 'Snakes set here,' is a form of notice sometimes painted on a board at the boundaries of plantations, &c.
The *snakes* are supposed to be iron spikes, fixed point upwards in the ground.

Snake stones, *sb. pl.* ammonites found in the Lias.

Snaply, *adj.* quickly.

Snap the head off one, *v.* to be very angry. 'Feth, he was like to ha' *snapped the heed aff me*.'

Sned, (1) *sb.* the handle of a scythe.
(2) *v.* to cut. 'Sned turnips,' to cut off the leaves.

Snedden, *sb.* a large-sized sand-eel.

Snell, *adj.* supercilious; impudent.

Snib, Sneck, *v.* to fasten. ‘*Snib* the window.’

Snicher, Snigger, *v.* to giggle.

Sniffle, *v.* to sniff.

Snifter *v.* to sniff.

Snifther, *sb.* a strong blast of wind.

Snifthers, *sb.* a cold in the head.

Snig, *sb.* a juvenile thief, who steals the kites of other boys by cutting the string and seizing the kite when it falls.

Snirt, *v.* to make a noise through the nose when endeavouring to suppress laughter.

Snod, *adj.* cut smooth; even: as the edges or eaves of a thatched roof.

Snood, *sb.* the thin part of a sea fishing-line, to which the hook is fastened.

Snook, *v.* to sneak.

Snool, *sb.* an ill-tempered, sneaking fellow.

Snoot. ‘Whether wud ye rether hae a soo’s *snoot* stewed, or a stewed soo’s *snoot*?’ an alliterative saying, to be said very quickly.

Snotther, *sb.* mucus of the nose; also a term of contempt.

Snow. (1) When snow lingers on the ground it is said ‘to be waiting for more.’

(2) To ‘go like *snow* off a ditch’ is to disappear quickly. The expression is used in reference to families that have died off rapidly.

Snow broth, Snoo broo, *sb.* half-melted snow.

Snuggle, *v.* to nestle, as a child against its mother’s breast.

Snurley, *adj.* gnarled or twisted.

So! (1) indeed! (2) ‘*So* I am,’ ‘*so* I will,’ ‘*so* it is,’ are added apparently to make a statement more forcible. ‘I will, *so* I will,’ is considered to be stronger than merely ‘I will.’

Soäns, *sb.* Same as [Sowans](#).

‘Sup *soäns* wi’ an elsin,’ attempt an impossibility.

Soddened, *adj.* “The stones so *soddened* or wedged together, you cannot get one loose to throw at a fowl.” — Richard Dobbs, *Description of the Co. of Antrim*, 1683.

Soft, Saft, *adj.* wet, as applied to weather.

Soft drinks, *sb. pl.* soda-water, lemonade, &c., as distinguished from whisky, &c., which are called *hard drinks*.

Soil, (1) *sb.* fresh fodder for cattle.

(2) *v.* to feed cattle in the house.

Sojer (soldier), *sb.* a red herring.

Soldiers, *sb. pl.* The little creeping sparks on paper that has been burned, but is not quite converted into ashes, are called by children *soldiers*.

Sole, (1) *sb.* a sill. 'A window *sole*.'
(2) *sb.* the sod; grassy turf. 'The lawn has a good *sole*.'

Sonsy and douce, pleasant and quiet.

Sonsy, *adj.* lucky. 'It's not *sonsy* to do that.' Comely; stout: as applied to a woman.

Soo, *sb.* a sow.

Soogan, *sb.* a saddle of straw or rushes.

Soo luggit, *sb.* with the ears hanging.
'A *soo luggit* horse.'

Soop, *v.* to sweep.

Soople, (1) *sb.* a part of a flail. See [Flail](#).
(2) *adj.* flexible; active.

Sooter, *sb.* a fish, the gemmeous dragonet, *Callionimus Lyra*.

Sore, (1) *adj.* sad; unpleasant; severe.
'It's a *sore* day on the stooks,' *i.e.* a very wet day. Also pitiful or contemptible.
'He's a *sore* fool.' (2) *v.* swore.

Sore foot, *adj.* Same as 'a rainy day,' *i.e.* bad times or sickness.

Sore hand, Sair han', *sb.* a disagreeable spectacle; anything spoiled or disfigured. 'He fell in the mud, an' made a *sore han'* o' himsel." 'He tried to paint the boat, and made a *sore hand* of it.'

Sore head, *sb.* a headache.

Sore thumb, *sb.* 'To sit up like a *sore thumb*,' to sit with a supercilious or unbending air.

Sorra hait, nothing. '*Sorra hait* rowled up in deil perlickit,' nothing at all.'

Sorra mend ye, you deserve it.

Sorra yin, not one.

Sort, *v.* to repair anything.

Sosh, *adj.* snug; comfortable; neat-looking. 'She's a *sosh* wee lass.' Saucy.

Soud, *v.* 'Let them *soud* it amang themsel's,' *i.e.* let them settle it among themselves.

Sough, (1) *sb.* a hollow sobbing or groaning sound, caused by the wind or by running water; the sound that comes from a great crowd of persons at a distance; a rumour or report of news.
(2) 'Keep a calm *sough* till the tide comes in,' *i.e.* have patience. (3) *v.* to breathe loudly in sleep, but not to snore.

Sourlick, Sour'k, *sb.* a sorrel, *Rumex acetosa*.

Sowan pot. 'A wud nae gi'e scrapin's o' a *sowan pot* for it:' said of anything very worthless.

Sowans, *sb.* flummery; a sour gruel made from the husks of oats called seeds. These are steeped in water till the liquor sours; they are then strained out,

and the fluid portion is boiled. This thickens into a kind of jelly on cooling.

Spadesman, *sb.* a man accustomed to dig.

Spading, Spitting, *sb.* the depth of soil raised at one time by the spade.

Spae, *v.* to foretell.

Spae fortunes, *v.* to tell fortunes.

Spae man, Spae wife, *sb.* a man or woman who it is supposed can tell fortunes or foretell events.

Spain, *v.* to wean a child or a foal.

Spaivied, *adj.* spavined.

Spang, *sb.* a bound or spring. "About three horse *spangs* frae the thicket." — Huddelston [sic].

Spangle, *sb.* a measure of hand-spun linen yarn. "As the terms *hank* and *spangle* are not known to all readers, especially in their application to the quantities of hand-spun yarn, it may be stated that after the thread had been spun, it was wound off the spool on a reel, constructed so as to measure exactly ninety inches in circumference. Every hank contained a dozen cuts, each cut was 120 rounds of the reel, and four hanks were counted as a *spangle*." — *Ireland and her Staple Manufactures*. Second ed. Belfast: 1865.

Spark, *v.* to splash with water or mud.

Spark to deeth, *v.* to faint. 'I was liken to *spark to death*,' i.e. I was in a fainting condition. Refers also to persons who can hardly recover breath after a paroxysm of coughing.

Sparrow hail, *sb.* very small shot.

Spave, *sb.* a spavin.

Spawls, Spuls, *sb. pl.* long-shaped fragments of stone or wood.

Spearling, *sb.* the gar-fish. Same as [Horn-eel](#).

Specs, *sb.* spectacles.

Speel, *v.* to climb.

Speer, *v.* to enquire.

Speigh, *v.* to splice.

Spell-man, *sb.* a man engaged to work by the job or spell.

Spend, *v.* to deteriorate or 'go back,' as cattle if put upon a poor pasture.

Spenshelled, *v.* spancelled. A cow with her fore-feet tied together is said to '*spenshelled*.'

Spentacles, *sb.* spectacles.

Spit, *v.* to rain slightly.

Split the differ, *v.* to divide the sum which is the difference between buyer and seller in bargaining.

Spoiled five, *sb.* a game of cards.

Spoke, *v.* to ‘spoke a cart,’ is to force it on by pulling round the wheels by the spokes.

Spool of the breast, *sb.* the bone in the middle of the breast.

Spraghle, (1) *v.* to sprawl. (2) *sb.* a straggling branch.

Sprickly-beg, *sb.* a stickleback.

Springer, *or* Springin’ cow, *sb.* a cow in calf.

Springing, *v.* about to calve.

Sprint, *v.* the ‘keeper’ of a chest lock.

Sprig, *v.* to embroider muslin or linen.

Sprigging, *sb.* the occupation of embroidering muslin.

Sprit, *sb.* a mildew or disease to which growing flax is subject. Same as [Firing](#).

Sprunged, *adj.* miserable-looking; starved.

Spuans, *sb.* what is vomited.

Spuds, *sb.* potatoes.

Spulpin, *sb.* a corruption of the Irish word usually written ‘spalpeen,’ a troublesome or disagreeable fellow.

Spung, *sb.* a large pocket.

Spunkie, *adj.* high-spirited; courageous.

Spurtle, *sb.* a pot stick. A small double-pointed flat stick with a T head, used for thrusting in the knots of straw, in repairing a thatched roof.

Spy farlies, *v.* to pry about for any thing strange. ‘Now, don’t be commin’ in here to *spy farlies*.’

Spy hole, *sb.* In cottages a wall called the ‘hollan’ is built to screen the hearth from the observation of any one standing at the threshold; but in order to allow a person within to see who approaches the door, a small hole, usually triangular, but sometimes four or five-sided, is made in the ‘hollan,’ three or four feet from the floor; this is the *spy hole*.

Spy Wednesday, *sb.* the Wednesday before Easter.

Squagh, *sb.* the cry of wild ducks or geese.

Square, *sb.* a squire.

Squench, *v.* to quench.

Squig, *sb.* Same as [Skeeg](#).

Squinacy, *sb.* a quinsy.

Stab, *sb.* a stake or post.

Stab, Beggar’s stab, *sb.* a large thick needle.

Stag, *sb.* a game cock under a year old; an informer.

Stagger, *sb.* an attempt. Same as [Stammer](#).

Stagging, *sb.* a man’s game. Two men have their own ankles tied together, and

their wrists tied behind their back; they then try to knock each other down.

Stag warning, *sb.* a boy's game.

Stake and rice, *sb.* a kind of paling.

Stammer, *sb.* an attempt. 'Ye didn't make a bad *stammer* at it.'

Stand, *sb.* Four knitting needles are a *stand*.

Standard, *sb.* the upright stick of a kite.

Stand at peace! stand quiet.

Stand by, (1) *sb.* a snack; something taken in place of a regular meal.

(2) *v.* stand aside.

Stand off, *adj.* reserved; haughty.

Stand over, *v.* to warrant the quality of anything.

Stank, *sb.* a ditch or 'sheugh' in which water lies.

Stank hole, *sb.* a pool of stagnant water.

Stank water, *sb.* stagnant water.

Stanlock, *sb.* a fish, the seath or grey lord, *Merlangus carbonarius*.

Stapple, *sb.* the stem of a pipe.

Stare like a stuck pig, *v.* to stare in a stupefied manner.

Stchiven, *sb.* a kind of sea-wrack on which pigs are sometimes fed.

Steek, *v.* to shut. 'Steek your e'en,' shut your eyes.

Steeped milk, *sb.* curdled milk.

Steep grass, *sb.* *Pinguicula vulgaris*, used for cudling [sic] milk along with rennet.

Stelk, *sb.* mashed potatoes and beans.

Same as Bean champ.

Sten, *v.* rear. 'Stennin' like a tip on a tether,' a comparison.

Stenchels, *sb. pl.* the wooden cross bars in a window-sash.

Step-mother's bairn, *sb.* the caterpillar of the tiger moth. Also called Granny.

Sthroe, *sb.* straw.

Sti, *adj.* steep. 'A *sti* brae.' 'A *sti* roof,' a high pitched roof.

Stian, *sb.* a sty on the eyelid.

Stick. 'If you throw him against the wall he would *stick*,' said of a very dirty person.

Stickin', *adj.* obstinate; stiff.

Still, *adv.* always. 'He's *still* asking me to do it.'

Stilts of a plough, *sb. pl.* the handles of a plough.

Stime, *sb.* 'It was so dark I couldn't see a *stime* before me,' *i.e.* I could not see anything at all.

Stir, *sb.* popular commotion; excitement; a concourse of people.

Stirk, *sb.* a cow one or two years old. 'A bull *stirk*,' a young bull.

Stitch, *sb.* clothes. ‘She hadn’t a dry *stitch* on.’

Stock, *sb.* the outside of a bed, *i.e.* the side furthest from the wall. ‘I canna’ sleep ony where but at the *stock*.’

Stoit, *v.* to walk in a careless, staggering way.

Stone. It is said that during the winter half of the year, the cold side of every stone turns uppermost. There is also a saying — ‘Never sit on a *stone* in a month with an R in it.’

Stone-checker, *sb.* the wheatear; also the cock stone-chat. The hen Is ‘whin-checker.’

Stood, *v.* withstood. ‘Your honour knows I never *stood* your word.’

Stook, (1) *sb.* the ‘shock’ into which sheaves of corn are first built up after being cut — generally from eight to eighteen sheaves. (2) *v.* to put up sheaves of corn in ‘*stooks*’ or shocks.

Stookie, *sb.* the inflated skin of a dog or other animal, used by fishermen as a float for their lines or nets.

Stooky, *sb.* a thick red composition used by French polishers.

Stopple, *sb.* a knot of hair in a brush.

Stour, (1) *sb.* dust. ‘It went off like *stour*.’ said of something that has sold rapidly. (2) *sb.* a disturbance or row.

Stove, *v.* to suffocate with smoke.

Straddle, *sb.* the saddle on the back of a cart-horse on which the ‘back-band’ rests.

Strain the anklet, *sb.* to sprain the ankle.

Strange, *v.* to wonder. ‘I *strange* very much that you didn’t come.’

Stranger. ‘You’re a great *stranger*,’ *i.e.* I have not seen you lately, or you have not been here lately.

Stravaig, *v.* to wander about.

Stresses, *sb. pl.* “Many of the inhabitants, particularly females, die in their youth of what they call *stresses*, that is violent heats from hard work.” — Mason’s *Parochial Survey*, 1814.

Strick, (1) *sb.* a small handful of flax fibre. (2) *v.* to arrange flax which has passed through the rollers, for the scutchers, so as to make it as even as possible.

Strickle, *sb.* an oak stick covered with emery for sharpening scythes. Same as [Stroke](#).

Strip, *sb.* the soil or clay which has to be stripped off the surface of a rock, before the rock can be quarried. Also called Red, *i.e.* something to be got rid of.

Stripper, *sb.* a cow that is giving milk, but is not in calf.

Strippings, *sb.* the last milk taken from a cow at each milking; it is the richest.

Strit, *sb.* a plant, *Juncus lamprocarpus*.

Stroke, (1) *sb.* an oak stick covered with emery for sharpening scythes. Same as [Strickle](#). (2) *sb.* a measure of potatoes containing two bushels. Dungiven, co. Derry (Mason's *Parochial Survey*, 1814). (3) *sb.* to give a 'stroke of the harrow,' is to pass a harrow over land.

Stroop, *sb.* a spout, as — 'the *stroop* of the kettle.'

Strunt, *sb.* a sulky fit.

Stughies, *sb. pl.* stews, of a greasy and coarse description.

Stump and rump, *sb.* the whole.

Stune, *sb.* a sting of pain.

Stupe, *v.* to bathe or sponge any part.

Sturdy, *sb.* "Near the sea-coast a sort of Poyson, I take it, called darnell, rises in the oats and other grain, very offensive to the brain, and cannot be cleaned out of the corn; ye country people call it *sturdy*, from the effects of making people light-headed," — *Description of the co. of Antrim*, by Richard Dobbs, 1683.

Such an', such. '*Such an'* a fine day.'

Suck in, (1) *sb.* a deception. (2) *v.* to deceive; to mislead.

Suck! Suck! a call to a calf.

Sucky, *sb.* a calf.

Sugar. 'You're neither *sugar* nor salt that you'd melt:' said to reconcile a person to a wetting.

Sum, *sb.* "A *sum* of cattle in these parts is what they call a collop in other parts of Ireland, consisting of one full-grown cow or bullock, of three years old, or a horse of that age; though in some places a horse is reckoned a *sum* and a half. Eight sheep make a *sum*."

— Harris, *Hist. co. Down*, 1744. In some places six ewes and six lambs make a *sum*.

Sundays. 'A month of *Sundays*' = a long time. 'I won't go back there for a month of *Sundays*.'

Sup, (1) *sb.* a small quantity of any liquid. (2) *sb.* a quantity. 'A good *sup* of rain fell last night.'

Sup sorra, *v.* to be sorry; to repent. 'Sup *sorra wi'* the spoon o' grief,' a saying.

Surely to goodness, *adv.* surely.

Swab, (1) *sb.* a butcher's *swab* = a butcher's boy. (2) *sb.* a contemptuous term for a person.

Swank, *sb.* a tall, thin man.

Sward, *sb.* the swathe, or line of grass cut by the scythe.

Swayed, *adj.* said of a wall that is leaning to one side.

Sweel, *sb.* a swivel.

Sweer, *adj.* unwilling; slow.

Swinge, *v.* to singe.

Swinger, *sb.* anything big. 'That conger eel 's a *swinger*.'

Swingle-tree, *sb.* part of the tackle of a plough.

Swirl, *sb.* a whirling gust of wind.

Swirly, *sb.* a quarryman's term for a large ammonite.

Swither, *v.* to be in doubt; to hesitate.

Switherin', undecided.

'I'm *switherin*' whether to go or not.

Swithers, *sb.* To be 'in the *swithers*,' wavering; to be undecided. 'I'm in the *swithers* what to do.'

Swurl o' wun, *sb.* a blast of wind.

Synavug, a soft crab. Same as a [Peeler](#).

Syne, *adv.* late.

T

Taapie, *sb.* a silly, careless woman.

Tack, *sb.* a rancid taste or taint, in butter, &c.

Tackle, *sb.* a quick and rather troublesome child.

Tacky, *adj.* sticky as varnish, not quite hard.

Taen, *v.* taken.

Taickle, *sb.* a randy; a talking, scolding woman.

Tail of the eye, *sb.* the corner of the eye. 'I saw him with the *tail of my eye*.' 'Now don't be watchin' me out of the *tail of your eye*.'

Tak, *or* Take, *sb.* a piece of ground taken on lease.

Take. 'Take to your beaters.' 'Take to your scrapers' = run away.

Take a hand at, *v.* to impose upon; to banter; to hoax. 'I know yer just *takin' a han' at me*.'

Take an' do, to do. 'Take *an' do* that at once.'

Take bad, *v.* to take ill.

Take in with, to overtake a person. 'You'll soon *take in with* him.'

Taken on with, pleased with. 'They're greatly *taken on with* him.'

Take notice, *v.* an infant beginning to show that it observes things is said to '*take notice*.'

Take off, (1) *sb.* a mimic. 'Dear! but you're a sore *take off*.' (2) *v.* to mimic. 'He *took her off* to the life.'

Take stock, *v.* to take notice of; to observe.

Tak' yer tobacco, don't be in a hurry.

Tammock, *sb.* a little knoll, in a bog or marsh.

Tanny, *sb.* a dark-complexioned (tawney) person.

Tap o' kin, *sb.* the head of the family.

Tap o' tow. Flax or tow placed on the 'rock' of a spinning-wheel, which if set on fire, would be all ablaze in an instant. Hence the saying — 'He went aff like a *tap o' tow*,' meaning he got into a flaming passion in an instant.

Tarble han', terrible hand. Same as [Sore hand](#).

Tarbillest, *adj.* most terrible.

Targe, (1) *sb.* a scolding woman.
(2) *v.* to scold loudly.

Targein'. 'A *targein'* fine horse,' a very fine horse.

Taste, *sb.* a small quantity. 'A *taste o'* matches.'

Tasty, *adj.* tasteful; natty. 'Oh, he's a very *tasty* man.'

Tatty, *adj.* untidy; unkempt.

Tawpened, *adj.* tufted as a fowl.

Tawpenny, *sb.* a hen with a tuft on its head.

Tear, (1) *v.* to run fast. (2) *v.* to knock or ring violently at a door. (3) [Teer]

'There's a *tear* in yer e'e like a threv'lin' rat,' saying.

Tears. 'The *tears* were running down his cheeks like beetles up a hill:' said in ridicule of a child who is crying for nothing.

Teem, (1) *v.* to pour. 'He *teemed* a pint of it down the dog's throat.'

(2) *sb.* heaviest rain. 'I was out in a perfect *teem*.'

Telling. 'It would be no *tellin'*,' *i.e.* it would not tell or count in one's favour — would be hurtful. 'It would be *tellin'* me a quare dale if I'd knowed that afore,' *i.e.* it would have been of great consequence to me to have known, &c.

Temp a sant (tempt a saint), to be very annoying. 'It would *temp a sant* the way you're gettin' on.'

Tendered, *v.* made tender, as linen sometimes is in 'the bleach.' 'The fibre (of flax) *tendered* by excess of moisture.'

Tent of ink, *sb.* as much ink as a pen will lift at once out of an ink-bottle.

Thairm, *sb.* cat-gut.

That, (1) *so.* 'He was *that* heavy we couldn't lift him.' (2) used in sense of *this*. A common salutation. 'That's a soft day,' means, 'This is a wet day.'

The day, to-day. 'Will you go *the day*, or the morrow?'

Thee, *sb.* the thigh.

Thegither, *adv.* together.

Theirsels, themselves.

The long eleventh of June, saying, used as a comparison of length.

The more, *adv.* although. 'He did it, *the more* he said he wouldn't.'

The morra come niver, never.

The pigs ran through it, something interfered to prevent the arrangement being carried out.

Thick, (1) *adj.* friendly; confidential. 'As *thick* as thieves.' (2) *adj.* in quick succession; close together.

Think a heap, *v.* to like; to value. 'We *think a heap* of him.'

Think long, *v.* to feel a longing; to be home-sick. 'What's the matter with you; are you *thinking long*?'

Think pity, *v.* to pity; to take pity. 'I *thought pity* o' the chile he was that cowl.'

Think shame, be ashamed. 'Think *shame* o' yersel', child!'

Thirtage, *sb.* Same as [Mootther](#), or Moulter. The proportion of meal paid to a miller for grinding. *Obsolete, I believe.*

Thirteen, *sb.* a name for a British shilling at the time when the British

and Irish currencies were different. The shilling was worth thirteen pence Irish.

Thole, (1) *v.* to bear; to endure. (2) 'A haporth o *thole*-weel, an' a pennorth o' nivir-let-on-ye-hae-it,' recommended as a cure for a trifling ailment.

Thon, *adv.* yon.

Thonder, *adv.* yonder.

Thongin', *sb.* a beating.

Thoom, *sb.* the thumb.

Thooms (thumbs). 'They might lick *thooms* tae the elbows,' *i.e.* the one is as bad as the other. 'We may lick *thooms* upon that,' a common saying when two parties agree to a bargain, or have a community of opinion (*Ulster Journal of Archaeology*).

Thorn grey, *sb.* the common grey linnet. Also called Hedge grey.

Thorough, or Thorra, *adj.* wise; sane. 'The poor fellow's not *thorough*.'

Thought, *sb.* a small quantity of anything. 'A wee *thought*,' a less quantity.

Thraiveless, *adj.* careless; silly, or restless, applied to a person disinclined to do anything, the disinclination arising from weakness. 'I was *thraiveless* after that long illness.'

Thrapple, Thrap, *sb.* the wind-pipe; the throat.

Thraw, *v.* to twist; to turn.

“Wha scarce can *thraw* her neck half roun’

Tae bid guid morn her neighbour.”
— Huddleston.

‘Them boots would *thraw* yer feet.’

Thraw a rope, to be hanged (the weight of the body causes the rope to ‘*thraw*’).

Thraw hook, *sb.* a hooked stick used for twisting hay-rope.

Thraw mule, *sb.* a perverse and obstinate person.

Thread the needle and sew, *sb.* a children’s game.

Threave, *sb.* the straw of two stooks (shocks) of corn.

Threep, *v.* to argue, or contest a point.

Threshel, *sb.* the threshold.

Thristle cock, *sb.* the common bunting.

Throm, *prep.* from.

Throng, *adj.* crowded. ‘The streets were very *throng*’ over-throng = over-crowded.

Through, (1) *adv.* in the course of. ‘I’ll call *through* the day.’ (2) *adv.* a horse ‘working *through* land,’ means working in fields, ploughing, &c.

‘Going *through* the floor’ = walking about a room as a nurse does with a restless child.

Through-

other, Throother, *adj.* confused; untidy; without order. ‘She’s a *through-other* sort o’ buddy.’ ‘His horse is all *through-other*.’

Throw, *v.* to cause. ‘It *throws* us that we can’t get the place cleared out.’

Throw by, *v.* throw away. ‘*Throw by* that owl hat aff ye.’

Thrum, *sb.* a threepence. A commission of three pence per stone on flax, paid by a flax buyer to a person who brings the buyer and seller together in open market.

Thrumphry, *sb.* rubbish; broken furniture.

Thrums, *sb. pl.* the ends of the threads of a weaver’s warp.

Thrush, *sb.* a boy’s game.

Thrushed in the feet, applied to a horse whose feet have become tender from the effect of dry hot weather.

Thump, *sb.* bean champ, *i.e.* mashed potatoes and beans.

Thunder. ‘He turned up his eyes like a duck in *thunder*,’ *i.e.* he showed astonishment.

Thunder-bolt, a stone celt; also a belemnite.

Thunderin’, very. ‘*Thunderin’* good hay.’

Thurrish, *v.* to be friendly, kindly, or accommodating. ‘These people wouldn’t *thurrish* together.’

Tib’s eve, or St. Tib’s eve, never. ‘I’ll marry you on *Tib’s eve*, an’ that’s neither before Christmas nor after,’ saying.

Ticht, *adj.* smart; active. ‘A *ticht*, clean fellow.’

Ticklish, *adj.* difficult; precarious.

Tid, Tidge, *sb.* a fine warm bed for crops; *adj.* the quality of soil that is fit for the reception of seed. ‘That ground is in fine *tid*,’ *i.e.* pulverised and dry.

Tied. ‘He was fit to be *tied*,’ *i.e.* in a great passion.

Tig, *sb.* a children’s game. The one that ‘has *tig*,’ chases the others till he ‘gives *tig*’ to one of them by touching; the one ‘*tigged*’ then chases the others who avoid him as dangerous. ‘Cross-*tig*,’ is a modification of this game.

Till, (1) *sb.* heavy clay; the subsoil. (2) *prep.* used for to. ‘A’m goin’ *till* Lisburn.’

Till iron, *sb.* a crow-bar.

Till midden, *sb.* a manure-heap in a ploughed field.

Time, (1) ‘If I can make *time*’ = if I have time. (2) ‘You kept *time* between you and the day,’ *i.e.* you kept putting off the evil day.

Time o’ day. To ‘bid the *time o’ day*,’ is to salute a person with ‘good morning’ or anything similar.

Timmersome, *adj.* timorous.

Tin, *sb.* What is known as ‘a *tin*,’ is a tin mug or porringer.

Tinker’s toast, *sb.* the crust at the side of a loaf which has been one of the outside loaves of a batch.

Tint, *adj.* one-third rotten, applied to wood that has been kept seasoning till it begins to decay.

Tip, *sb.* a ram.

Tirl, Thirl, *v.* to turn up something. ‘The wun’ *thirled* the thatch las’ nicht.’

To, (1) *adv.* used for till. ‘Come here *to* I kiss you.’ (2) *prep.* used for *for*. ‘You can get a bit *to* yourself.’

Toardst, *adv.* towards.

Tod, *sb.* a fox.

To-morrow was a year, a year ago from tomorrow.

Tom pudden, *sb.* the little grebe; also called, ‘penny-bird,’ ‘drink a penny,’ ‘Willie Hawkie.’

Tongue, (1) ‘Has a *tongue* wud clip clouts.’ ‘Has a *tongue* wud clip iron or brass,’ applied to a great talker, or to a person who has ‘a cuttin’ *tongue*.’ (2) *v.* to scold.

Tongue thrash, *v.* to scold.

Tongue-thrashing, *sb.* a scolding.

Tonguing, *sb.* abuse; a violent scolding.

Too big riggit, *adj.* over rigged, as a boat.

Took, (1) struck or caught. 'A stone just *took* him in the eye.' (2) *v.* went. 'They *took* down the old road.'

Took off, *v.* ran away.

Toom, *adj.* empty.

Tooth. Children when they are losing their first teeth, are told when a *tooth* is taken out, that if they do not put their tongue into the hole, a gold *tooth* will grow.

Top, *v.* to lop off the top branches in pruning a hedge.

Top pickle. 'The *top pickle* of all grain belongs to the gentry,' *i.e.* to the fairies.

Tory, *sb.* a deceiving person, usually applied in banter; a term of endearment for a child, thus — 'Ah! you're a right *tory*.' 'A rayl *tory*.' 'A sore *tory*,' &c.

Tothan, *sb.* a silly person.

To the fore, in existence.

Tottherry, *adj.* untidy; ragged.

Touch, *sb.* a loop of cord put round a horse's tongue or lip.

Touch an' hail, *sb.* (touch and heal), the St. John's wort, *Hyporicum perforatum*. *Prunella vulgaris* is also so-called.

Tours, *sb. pl.* peat sods used in firing.

Tove, *v.* to boast or brag.

Tover, *sb.* a boaster.

Tovey, Toved, *adj.* puffed up; silly; self-important.

Tovy eedyot, *sb.* a puffed up fool.

Towarst, *adv.* towards.

Town stinker, *sb.* a boy's game, played with a ball. The '*town*' is marked by a circle on the ground, and two parties of boys take possession of it alternately, according to their success in striking the ball in certain directions.

Track, *sb.* In playing marbles, a boy who hits one marble may 'take *track* off it,' *i.e.* he gets another shot.

Traik, (1) *sb.* a long, tiresome walk. (2) *v.* to be sickly; not to thrive.

Train, *v.* to travel by train. 'He'll have to *train* it every day.'

Tramp cock, *sb.* a hay-cock, which has been tramped to make it more solid.

Trams, *sb. pl.* the portions of the shafts which project behind the body of a cart. They are also called Back-trams.

Trash, Green trash, *sb.* unripe or bad fruit.

Travel, *v.* to walk. 'I *travelled* it every fut o' the way.'

Treadwuddy, *sb.* an iron hook and swivel used to connect a single or double tree with a plough or harrow.

Trench, *v.* to dig land down to the sub-soil.

Trig, (1) *sb.* the line from which persons jumping start from [sic], when making the jump. (2) *adj.* neat; trim.

Trigged up, *v.* trimmed up; settled.

Trinket, *v.* a small artificial water-course.

Trinkle, *v.* to trickle.

Trodge, *v.* to walk; to saunter.

Trodger, *sb.* a traveller on foot.

Trog, *sb.* slow and petty dealing in the market.

Troth, in truth. ‘*Troth* an’ I won’t.’

Troubles the, *sb.* the Irish rebellion of 1641.

Trout heaght, *sb.* trout height, the height that a trout can leap from the water, used as a standard or comparison of height.

Truckle, *sb.* a small car, in common use before the introduction of the present farm carts.

Truff, *v.* to steal.

Truff the ducks, a term applied to beggars and vagrants.

Trule, *sb.* a trowel.

Trump, *sb.* a Jew’s-harp.

Trunnel, Trinnel, (1) *sb.* the wheel of a wheelbarrow. (2) *v.* to trundle. ‘Away out an’ *trinnel* yer hoop.’

Truss, *sb.* A *truss* of hay is twelve score pounds. A *truss* of straw is nine score (McSkimin, *Hist. Carrickfergus*).

Truth. ‘It’s as true as *truth* has been this long time,’ saying.

Tryste, (1) *sb.* an appointment. ‘He put in a *tryste* with his girl.’ (2) *v.* to make an appointment; to bespeak. ‘You can’t have them boots, they’re *trysted*.’

Trysted, *v.* appointed. ‘I have *trysted* to meet him on Monday.’

Tthur! Tthur! a call for pigs.

Tuck stick, *sb.* a sword-stick.

Tune. ‘The *tune* the old cow died of,’ a comparison for any unrecognizable air, or any particularly bad attempt at music.

Tuppenny ticket, *sb.* ‘It’s not worth a *tuppenny ticket*,’ i.e. it’s quite worthless. These ‘*tickets*’ were copper, tradesmen’s tokens, value two-pence, of which considerable numbers were issued in the north of Ireland in the eighteenth century. They were about the size of farthings.

Turn an arch, *v.* to form or build an arch.

Turned, *adj.* slightly sour, applied to milk.

Turn-footins, *sb. pl.* small heaps of cut turf. See under [Clamp](#).

Turnips.

‘You may take one,

And you may take two,

But if you take three,

I’ll take you.’

Supposed to be said by farmers concerning persons who take a turnip out of a field to eat it.

Turn out the, *sb.* a term for the Irish rebellion of 1798. Also called The Hurries.

Turn spit Jack, *sb.* a game at country balls, &c., in which young men compete by singing for their partners in the next dance.

Turn the word, to contradict, or dispute the correctness of a statement. ‘I wouldn’t begin to *turn the word* with you.’

Twa, *nu. adj.* two.

Twa hand boy, *sb.* a smart fellow.

Twall, *nu. adj.* twelve.

Twalmouth, *sb.* a year.

Twict, Twicet, *adv.* twice.

Two double, *adj.* ‘Bent *two double*.’ ‘Going *two double*,’ bent with pain or age.

Two-eyed beef-steak, *sb.* a herring.

Twussle, *sb.* a tussle.

U

Unaise, Unease, Unaisement, *sb.* an uneasy state. ‘They got into an *unaise* when they heard about it.’ ‘It caused a great *unaisement* in the village.’

Unco, *adj.* strange.

Underboard, *adj.* dead and confined, but not yet buried.

Under foot salve, *sb.* filth applied as a poultice in the case of horses, &c.

Unfeelsome, *adj.* unpleasant; disagreeable.

Unfordersome, *adj.* unmanageable.

Unknownce, Unknownst, *adv.* unknown.

Unpossible, *adv.* impossible.

Unsignified, *adj.* insignificant.

Unsonsy, *adj.* unlucky.

Untimous, *adj.* at unseasonable times.

Upcast, *sb.* a reproach; something ‘cast up’ to one.

Upon, *prep.* with. ‘I take the medicine *upon* milk.’

Upsetting, *adj.* arrogant; assuming. 'The're the most *upsettineest* people in the country.'

Up the country people, *sb. pl.* persons from any part of Ireland, except the north-east of Ulster.

Us, *pron.* me.

V

Vaig, *sb.* a disreputable, wandering person.

Vaigish, *adj.* vagrant. 'A *vaigish* looking person.'

Vast. To be '*vast* against a person,' is to be very much opposed to him.

Vaut, *sb.* a vault.

Vermint o' rats, a great quantity of rats; a plague of rats.

W

Waarsh, Worsh, *adj.* insipid. 'A've got a *warsh* taste in ma mouth.'

Wabster, *sb.* weaver.

Wad, *v.* to wager.

Wag at the wa', *sb.* a clock, of which the pendulum is exposed to view.

Wag on, *v.* to beckon. 'I *wagged* on him to come across the field to me.'

Wait a wee, wait a little bit.

Waited on, just expected to die. 'He was *waited* on last night.' 'He's just a *waitin'* on.'

Wakerife, Waukerife, *adj.* wakeful.

Wale, (1) *sb.* that which is chosen or selected. (2) *v.* to pick the best out of a quantity of anything.

Waling [wailing] glass, *sb.* a weaver's counting glass, which magnifies a small portion of the surface of linen, and thus enables the set or count to be ascertained.

Walked [*l* sounded], *adj.* shrunken, applied to flannel that has shrunk in washing. 'The flannen 's as *walked* an' hard as a ca's lug' [a calf's ear].

Wallop, *sb.* 'A *wallop* of a horse,' a loose-limbed horse.

Walloping, *v.* floundering. A certain lake had overflowed its banks, and it was said that 'the eels were *wallop*in' through the fields.'

Wallopy, *adj.* loose limbed.

Walter, *v.* 'The potatoes lie down and *walter* on the ground,' *i.e.* they remain lying.

Walthered, *adj.* mired or stuck in a boggy road, or swampy place. ‘Whiles in the mornin’ I find the branches of the trees all *walthered* and smashed,’ broken down into the mire.

Wanst, *adv.* once.

Want, *v.* to do without. ‘We can’t *want* the pony the day.’

Wanting, without. ‘You’re better *wanting* that.’

Wants a square of being round: said of a person who is not wise.

War-hawk, *sb.* a bailiff or summons server.

Warm the wax in your ears, box your ears.

Warshness, *sb.* a sickish feeling accompanied by a desire to taste something salt or with a strong flavour.

Warts. *Warts* are said to be caused by the foam of the sea if it touches the hands.

Washing, *sb.* A *washing* of clothes is as much as is washed at once.

Wasslin’, *v.* making a rustling or hoarse sound in breathing. ‘Do you hear the chile *wasslin’* in his chest?’

Wassock, *sb.* a wind-guard for the door of a cottage made of inter-woven branches of birch or hazel. Same as [Corrag](#).

Watch out, *v.* to watch for; to look out for.

Water, *sb.* a river. ‘The six-mile *water*.’ ‘The Braid *water*.’

Water-brash, *sb.* a sensation as of water coming up the throat into the mouth.

Water-grass, *sb.* water-cress.

Water guns, *sb. pl.* sounds as of gun-shots said to be heard around the shores of Lough Neagh and by persons sailing on the lake. The cause of the sounds, which are generally heard in calm weather, has not been explained. The phenomenon is also spoken of as the Lough shooting.

Water of Ayr, *sb.* a kind of stone highly prized for hones; boys’ marbles are also supposed to be made of it. Sometimes called Wattery vair.

Water table, *sb.* the channel at the side of a road.

Water wagtail, *sb.* the grey wagtail.

Waur, *adj.* worse. ‘Ance ill, aye *waur*,’ saying.

Way, *sb.* ‘He’s in a great *way* with her,’ *i.e.* he is very much taken with her, or in love with her. (2) ‘What *way* are ye?’ ‘What *way* are ye commin’ on?’ *i.e.* how do you do?

Ways, *sb.* way; distance. ‘It’s a great *ways* off.’

Weak turn, *sb.* a fainting fit.

Wean, Wain, *sb.* a child.

Wear in, *v.* 'The time will soon *wear in*,' *i.e.* the time will soon pass.

Wearie. 'The auld *wearie* on you,' an evil wish or curse.

Weasel, *sb.* the stoat. The true weasel does not occur in Ireland.

Weather gall, *sb.* the end of a rainbow seen in squally weather. Same as [Dog](#).

Weavers, *sb. pl.* spiders.

Webber, *sb.* a country linen buyer. (Obsolete.)

Week, *sb.* a wick — hence the riddle or puzzle, 'Licht a can'le on Monday mornin', an' it 'll burn tae the week's en.'

Wed, *v.* weeded. 'The garden wants to be *wed*.'

Wee, (1) *sb.* a short time. 'In a *wee*' = in a short time. (2) *adj.* little.

Weed, *sb.* a feverish attack to which women are sometimes liable.

Weel-faured, *adj.* good-looking.

Wee folk, Wee people, *sb. pl.* fairies.

Wee knowin', *sb.* a small quantity; what could be perceived.

Weel saired, *adj.* well served.

Weeny, *adj.* little. Same as [Wee](#).

Wee ones, *sb. pl.* children. 'There was a wheen o' *wee ones* follayin' afther thim.'

Wee thing, a little. 'It's a *wee thing* sharp this mornin'.

Weght, *sb.* a round tray, made of sheepskin stretched on a hoop, for carrying corn, &c.

Weigh butter and sell cheese, *sb.* a children's game. Two persons stand back to back and interlock their arms; then each, by bending forward alternately, lifts the other off the ground.

Well? what?

Well-blooded, *adj.* with a high complexion; rosy.

Well ink, *sb.* a marsh plant, *Veronica Beccabunga*. It is used medicinally.

Well, I think! an exclamation of surprise; indeed!

Well of a car, *sb.* a receptacle for luggage or parcels in the central part of an 'outside car.'

Well put on, *adj.* well-dressed. The reverse is Ill put on.

Welshmen plucking their geese, a heavy shower of snow when the wind is S.E. or E.

Welt the flure, a call of encouragement to persons dancing.

Wet-my-foot, *sb.* the quail; so called from its cry. Also called Wet-my-lip.

Wet shod, *adj.* having one's boots and stockings saturated.

Whack, (1) *sb.* a good allowance of drink. 'He can take his *whack*.' A profit, or a share or slice of the profit, on a transaction. (2) Quality. 'It's not the *whack*,' *i.e.* not the quality; not up to the mark.

Whalin', *sb.* a beating.

Whammel, *v.* to fall in a sprawling way.

Whammle, Whummle, *v.* to upset or knock over something.

Whang, (1) *sb.* a thong: hence a shoe-tie. (2) *sb.* a large slice cut off a loaf.

Wharve, *sb.* the spool fastened on a spindle over which the band passes which drives the spindle.

What ails you at? means what objection or dislike have you to? Thus: 'What ails you at that man?' 'What ails you at your stir-about?'

What come on you? what happened to you? what delayed you?

What do they call you? *i.e.* what is your name?

What like is he? what is he like?

What way are ye? how do you do?

What way is he? how is he?

Whatsumever, *adv.* whatever.

Whaup, *sb.* a curlew, *Numenius Arquata*.

Whee! Wee! call for a horse to stop.

Wheen, *sb.* a quantity; a number. 'Give us a *wheen* o' them nuts.' 'I'll try it for a *wheen* o' days more.'

Wheep, *v.* to whistle.

Wheeples, *sb.* a whistler.

Wheetie, *sb.* a duck.

Wheetie-wheetie, a call to ducks.

Which? what?

Which han' will ye have it in? a taunt, meaning you won't get it at all.

Whiles, *adv.* now and then; occasionally. 'Ogh, 'deed, *whiles* he's betther an *whiles* he's waur.'

Whillalooya. 'Singing *whillalooya* to the day nettles,' dead and buried.

Whimper, *sb.* a whisper.

Whim-wham. 'A *whim-wham* for a goose's bridle,' something that April fools are sent in search of.

Whin checker, *sb.* the hen stone chat. See [Stone checker](#).

Whinge, *v.* to whine; to cry in a complaining way.

Whin grey, *sb.* a bird, the lesser redpole.

Whins, *sb.* furze.

Whin-stone, *sb.* basalt.

Whip, *v.* to run quickly.

Whish! Whisht! Wheesht! *interj.* hush.

White, *v.* to cut small chips off a stick with a knife.

White-headed boy, *sb.* a favoured one; a mother's favourite among her boys.

White horse, *sb.* a summons.

White side, *sb.* the tufted duck, or the young of the golden eye.

Whitey-brown thread, *sb.* a strong kind of thread: so called from its colour.

Whitterick, *sb.* a small swimming bird, perhaps the little grebe.

Whitterick, Whitterit, *sb.* the stoat, *Mustela Erminea*.

Whizeek, *sb.* a severe blow. 'A hut him a *whizeek* on the lug.'

Who's owe it? who owns it?

Whuddin', *v.* applied to a hare when it is running about as if to amuse itself.

Whumper, *sb.* a whisper; a private intimation.

Whup, *sb.* a whip.

Whutherit, *sb.* a stoat.

Why but you? why did (or do) you not? 'Why but you pay the man?' 'Why but you hut him?'

Wiley coat, *sb.* a short shirt of flannel, with short sleeves, open down the front, worn by men, sometimes next the skin and sometimes over another garment.

Wilk, *sb.* a periwinkle.

Williard, *adj.* obstinate; self-willed.

Willie Hawkie, *sb.* the little grebe. Also called Drink-a-penny.

Willie-wagtail, *sb.* the wagtail.

Wilyart, Wulyart, *adj.* bashful; stupid.

Win, *v.* to save or dry hay, turf, &c., by exposure to the wind.

Wind. (1) 'To get under the *wind*' of any affair is to get secret or early information about it. (2) The following rhyme has regard to the various winds:

'When the *wind*'s from the north

It's good for cooling broth;

When the *wind*'s from the south

It blows the dust into your mouth;

When the *wind*'s from the east

It's neither good for man or beast;

When the *wind*'s from the west,

Then the weather's best.

Winedins, *sb. pl.* The head and foot rig in a ploughed field on which the horses turn are the *winedins*.

Wine 'ere, Wind 'ere? a call to a horse to turn to the left or near side.

Wink o' sleep, any sleep. 'I didn't get a *wink o' sleep* for a week.'

Winlin, *sb.* a small roll of hay.

Winnle stroe, *sb.* a stalk of withered grass.

Winter dyke, *sb.* two strong fences of stones or earth crossing each other at right angles. These are erected on exposed pastures to shelter cattle left out in winter. Also a clothes-horse for drying clothes on.

Winter Friday, *sb.* a term for a cold, wretched-looking person.

Wit, (1) *sb.* knowledge; intelligence.
(2) 'He has to seek his *wit* yet,' said of a fool.

Witch's cradle, *sb.* a Lias fossil, *Gryphea incurva*.

Wite, *v.* to blame.

Wi' the han', favourable; easily done. This expression is taken from ploughing experience. When a man is ploughing across a sloping place, and has difficulty in getting the earth to lie back, he would say it was 'again the han'; if otherwise, he would say it was '*wi' the han*'. The horse that walks on the unploughed land is said to be 'in the han'; the other horse is called the 'fur horse,' because it walks in the furrow.

Without, *adv.* unless. '*Without* you do it.'

Wizzen, *sb.* the windpipe.

Wobble, *v.* to lather the face before shaving; to totter in walking; to shake; to be unsteady on the feet.

Wobblin' brush, *sb.* a shaving brush.

Wool cottar, *sb.* a cormorant.

Wool fire, wild fire, an eruption on the skin. 'It spreads like *wool fire*,' a comparison.

Word, *sb.* news; a message. '*Word* come that his brother was dead.' 'Did the master leave *word* when he would be home?'

Words, *sb.* a falling-out. 'Why did you leave your last place?' 'Oh, the manager an' me had *words*.'

Worm month, *sb.* part of July and part of August; a fortnight before and a fortnight after Lammas. "Everything that has life in it lives this month."

Worm-picked, *adj.* worm-eaten, as wood.

'Worse nor lose ye canna,' *i.e.* you can but lose, so you may venture to do it.

Wraith, *sb.* a shadowy likeness of a person.

Wran, *sb.* a wren.

Wringin', *adj.* saturated; dripping with water. 'I was out in that pour, an' I'm all *wringing*.'

Wrought on, *v.* worked in the system. 'He took a swelling in his knee last July, an' it has *wrought on* him ever since.'

Wud, *adj.* enraged; mad.

Wun, *sb.* the wind.

Wunnher, *sb.* a sprite of a child. ‘Come here, ye *wunnher*, ye.’

Wunnhur what ails ye. ‘A’ll mak ye *wunnhur what ails ye*,’ a threat of a beating or punishment.

Wunnie claith, *sb.* winnow cloth, a large cloth on which the grain falls when it is winnowed by being tossed in the wind.

Wur sels, *sb. pl.* ourselves.

Y

Yammerin, Yimmerin’, *v.* complaining; grumbling.

Yap, (1) *sb.* a cross, peevish fellow. (2) *v.* A chicken or young turkey is said to *yap* when it makes repeated calls for food.

Yappy, *adj.* thin; hungry-looking.

Yarn. ‘Take the *yarn*,’ said of herrings when they strike the net.

Yarwhelp, *sb.* a bird mentioned by Harris (*Hist. Co. Down*, 1744). It “is something like a woodcock.” Called also Yarwhip.

Yaup, *v.* to bark; to cry as a young bird for food.

Yeat, *sb.* a gate.

Yell, *adj.* dry, as a cow when not giving milk.

Yelloch, *sb.* a yell.

Yellow-man, *sb.* a kind of toffee made of treacle and flour.

Yerp, *v.* to yelp. ‘Whiles a whitterick *yerps* like a dug,’ *i.e.* a stoat sometimes yelps like a dog.

Yilley-yorlin, Yella-yoit, Yella-yert, *sb.* the yellow-hammer or yellow bunting.

Yin, *adj.* one.

Yin ends erran’, on particular or special purpose. ‘He went *yin ends erran*’ for it.’

Yirkin, *sb.* the side of a boot.

Yirnin’, Yermerin’, *v.* grumbling; complaining.

Yoke, Yok, *v.* to attach a horse to a cart or other vehicle.

Yirlin, *sb.* a yellow-hammer.

You and you else, *i.e.* you and others like you; in the same line as you are, or the same way of thinking.

Your day, *sb.* your lifetime; all your days. ‘The watch will last you *your day*.’

You’re no fit, you are not able.

Your uns, *sb.* your family.

Yous, *pron. ye.* ‘Yous can’t get commin’ through this way.’

You’ve only the half of it, a reply to the observation, ‘I’m glad to have seen you,’ meaning ‘I am as glad as you are.’

Yowl, *v.* to howl. ‘The dog *yowled* when I clodded a stone at him.’

Yowlin’, *sb.* a howling or yelping noise.

Yuky, *adj.* itchy.

Z

Zinc, *sb.* This word is sometimes sounded as of two syllables, thus — *ess-zinc*.

'Patterson's glossary remains a unique record of Ulster-Scots in the 19th century.'

Ulster-Scots Academy

A Glossary of Words and Phrases used in Antrim and Down is a valuable resource for anyone interested in discovering words used by the Ulster-Scots people throughout the middle to late 19th century. It was published originally in 1880 by London: Trübner & Co. and then released online by the Ulster-Scots Academy. The Ulster Loyalist Institute has transformed it into an e-book in an attempt to help preserve Ulster-Scots history, culture and language.



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